Periodicals

THE CRISIS

15c. A COPY

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
has taught us Sing a
full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our
day be-
un, Le
mare

NOVEMBER, 1927

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How soon will we announce the new series? We cannot state this definitely, though it should be soon. We must first dispose of our stock of Little Blue Books. The quicker they are distributed and turned into cash, the sooner will we be able to set our machines to work on our new publishing program.

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THE CRISIS

A Record of the Darker Races

W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, *Editor* AUGUSTUS GRANVILLE DILL, *Business Manager* AARON DOUGLAS, *Art Critic*

Volume 34, No. 9 Contents for November, 1927 *Whole No. 205*

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THE Christmas CRISIS will have a beautiful Christmas cover, of course, and photographs of the Negro in Christmas art. It will include the delayed report on Negro schools of South Carolina and an account of the Chicago Art League.

As the Crow Flies

THE assembly of the League of Nations has done a fine and brave thing by insisting upon pushing the work of world disarmament despite the propaganda of organized murder in the shape of armies and navies. Peace sentiment is growing everywhere.—The American Legion has been clowning it in Paris and turning a solemn pilgrimage into a gay holiday. The dead sleep on.—If any lady in the United States has a superfluous husband, we beg to recommend the State of New Jersey. There are plenty of stray Negroes there who can be accused and be put in jail.—At last the United States has received a tariff punch in the eye. We have long asserted the divine right of preventing foreigners from selling us the goods we want. But what right has France to play this same little game?—This month Russia celebrates ten years of freedom from the tyranny of the Czars. Congratulations.—The United States of Europe is becoming a matter of buying and selling and fear of America.—Great Britain is using Russian oil, not to calm angry waters, but to light a world conflagration.—The United States has sent its chief tailor's model to Italy in order to teach Mussolini American race prejudice.—Persons who know what William E. Borah will do, say or think on any of the great questions that face mankind today are asked to communicate their knowledge to the American public at the earliest opportunity.—J. P. Morgan and Company will represent the United States in Mexico. Well, what is there new about that?—England has increased her power in the Council of the League of Nations by one vote, Canada. Of course, Canada asserts her independence; but wait until the English Navy speaks and the English investor cracks his whip.—Cuba replaces Belgium as an elected member of the Council of the League of Nations. Thus the West Indies are recognized.—White civilization is blossoming in Indiana. One governor has just left the penitentiary; another seems to be on his way thither; and the mayor of Indianapolis is sentenced to a vacation in jail.—Corrupt politics win again in Pennsylvania simply because the respectable people of Pennsylvania vote for Vare.—Walter Hampden is a worthy successor of John Drew as president of the Players Club. The New York stage has four Negro plays so far this season and more to come.—The colleges, colored and white, are full of students.—American oil men who placed great faith in the Mexican revolution are at least temporarily disappointed by the fate of Francisco Serrano and Alfredo Quijano.—Down in Kentucky they are voting about one thing and talking about another, as is usual in the South. They talk about race track betting; they vote on the Negro.—Japan has a fleet of warships visiting New York harbor. This is a gesture that America understands and appreciates. It is "western" civilization.—T. P. O'Connor, Irish member of Parliament from Liverpool, has finished seventy-nine useful years.—Katharine Mayo, white American, declares that brown India is sexually immoral. Thus the pot calls the kettle black.—They did not dare let Vanzetti's ashes rest for a moment in France.

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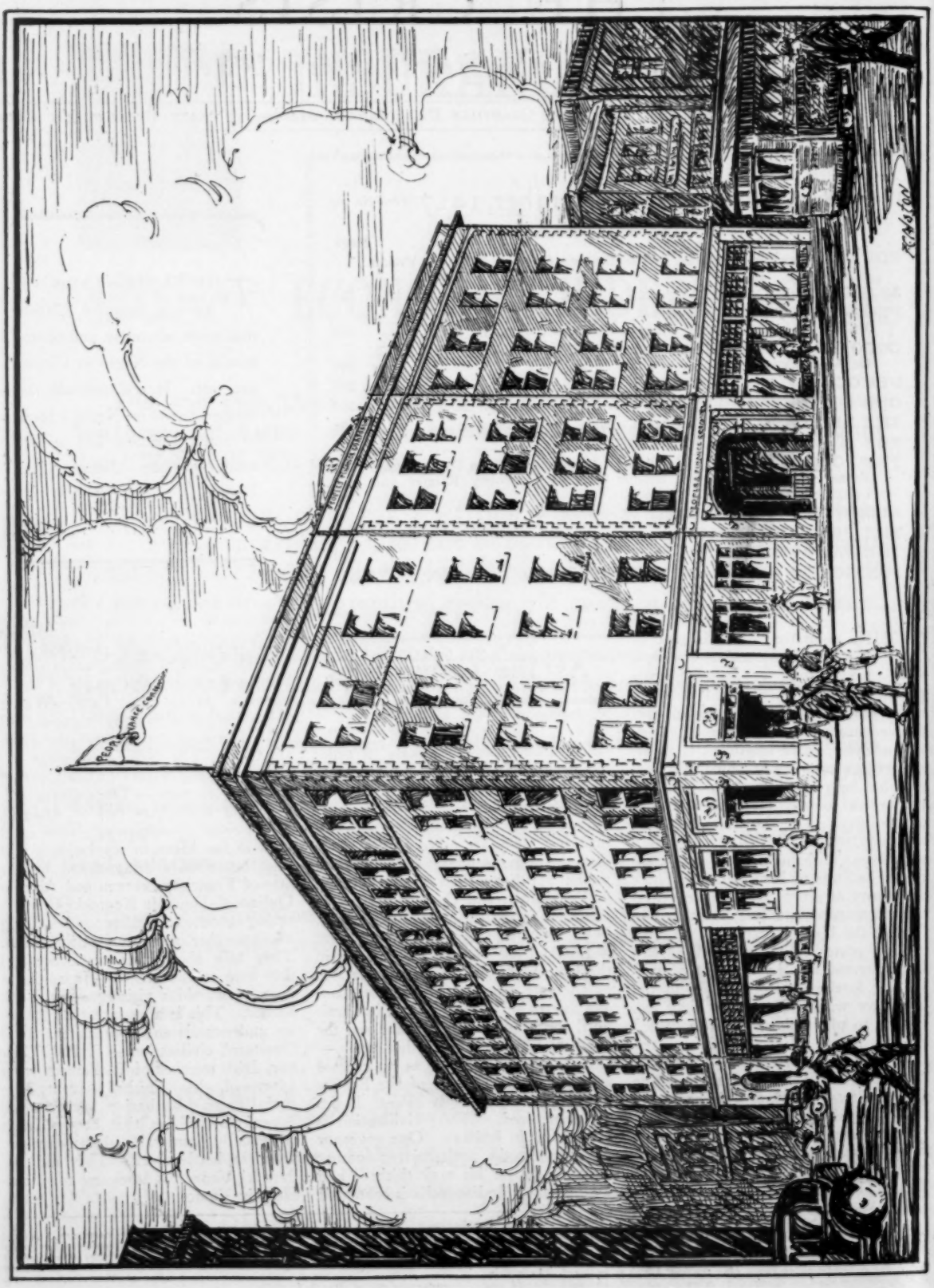


Building of the People's Finance Corporation in St. Louis

Colored Industrial Loan Companies

G. W. BUCKNER

THE establishment of finance companies by Negroes has been forced upon them by sheer necessity. Prior to 1922, the colored citizens of St. Louis, like other large cities, were compelled to pay white real estate operators and small loan sharks whatever brokerage they charged for loans. Today, to a large extent, this unfortunate situation has been relieved since the establishment of the People's Finance Corporation. This institution was organized in October, 1922, with a capital of $50,000. The original capital has been increased at various times; first to $100,000, then to $175,000, and finally to $250,000. During the five years of its successful operation, the company has made loans amounting to over $1,250,000 in amounts from $25 and up. The smaller loans are known as Industrial loans and the borrower is required to secure two co-makers upon his note who guarantee prompt and full payment. The Real Estate loans usually extend over a period of two or three years and are payable in monthly installments. The payments, as nearly as possible, are made to fit the financial status of the borrower.

THE People's Finance Corporation of St. Louis has combined resources now amounting to nearly a million dollars and has nearly one thousand stockholders, the largest number of stockholders of any colored financial organization in the country. Last year the company opened its new office building, which is located at one of the most strategic points in the city. The building and equipment represent an outlay of nearly a half million dollars and is indeed a monument to racial progress and achievement. The building contains a basement which is used for lodge rooms and recreational purposes. The first floor contains the spacious banking quarters of the People's Finance Corporation, including a large Safe Deposit vault which can accommodate 3,000 individual boxes. Seven stores and a large cafeteria are also on the first floor. The second, third and fourth floors contain ninety-one offices, many of which are arranged in suites. The fifth floor contains a beautiful Auditorium which is adjoined by a Solarium, with a seating capacity for 1,200 people. The Auditorium also contains a stage, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, a vanity room and smoking rooms. A roof garden is also on the fifth floor. The entire building is fully occupied. It is generally conceded that the People's Finance Corporation has proven one of the most constructive forces St. Louis has ever had. It has increased Negro business, helped to save many Negro homes and, above all, has been a great stimulus to the economic development of the Negro.

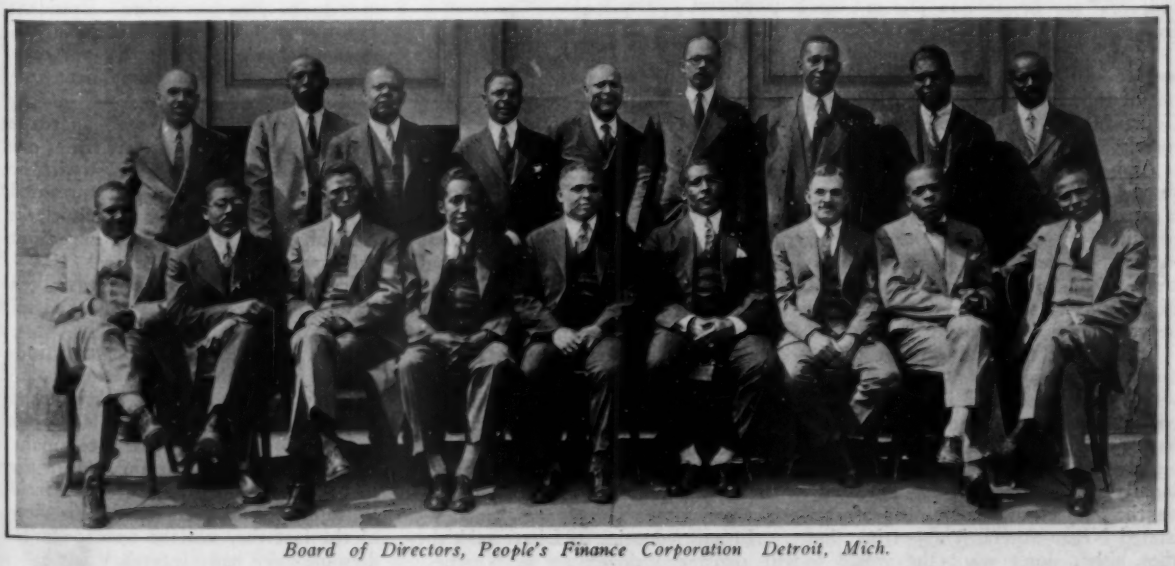
The author is Vice-President of the People's Finance Corporation of St. Louis

LOCAL white business men regard the People's Finance Corporation as one of the outstanding institutions of the city. The State Finance Commissioner has recently written as follows:

"I want to say I was delightfully surprised with your wonderful building and the splendid group of men I found in connection with your company. I feel I have made no mistake in granting your company a permit to sell its securities to investors in this state."

The success of the People's Finance Corporation in St. Louis, has not remained in St. Louis alone. Other cities, including Detroit, Kansas City, Chicago, Newark, New York and Cleveland, have already organized successful companies or are now in the process of organization. The St. Louis institution has received requests from many of the larger cities for the establishment of similar companies. The possibilities for such organizations may be gained from the capital already raised by these companies, as follows: People's Finance Corporation of St. Louis, capital $250,000; Detroit, $100,000; Cleveland, $100,000; Kansas City, $100,000; Newark, $100,000. Kansas City was organized last October and has perhaps made the most rapid strides of any of the organizations.

(*Turn to page* 314)



Board of Directors, People's Finance Corporation Detroit, Mich.

Democracy In Mississippi

A Study of Negro Suffrage

THE Negro vote in Mississippi is almost negligible. This condition is due primarily to the flagrant refusal of Democratic registration officers to permit Negroes to register.

The requirements for registration in this state are that the applicants must be able to "read and write, or understand the Constitution when read to them" and must have paid their poll tax for the past two years prior to the time at which they offer for registration.

The Clerk of the Circuit court in each county, or his deputy, is the sole judge of every one's ability to qualify for registration and he is invariably a Democrat and adamant. All white folk are "qualified". If a white person cannot read or write, such person is always able to "understand the constitution when read". Hence, all white folk vote.

When a colored man comes up to register, as a rule, he is either unceremoneously ordered out of the office with an oath before a question even has been asked; or is told by the clerk that he is busy and hasn't time to register him; or is given something to read or asked a question, only to have the registration book closed, slammed to and be told that he cannot qualify.

This is the rule after a few are registered, regardless of the qualifications of the applicant. These only too often are far superior to those of the registrar whose literary attainments many times are not above those of the seventh or eighth grade pupil.

Often the applicant is threatened, is told that the white folk are watching him, that the Negroes are getting along very well there now, but that just such "niggers" as he (the applicant) are fixing to get a lot of "niggers" killed.

In several other instances I have been told of many Negroes being driven out of the clerk's office which is in the Court House, at the point of a gun, merely for having asked to register.

And one must have first been registered by this circuit clerk and present a certificate to that effect, before being permitted to register in the cities or towns. In that way, as you see, this clerk is the sole arbiter of the destiny of the Negro voter, or rather, would be voter.

It is quite a difficult matter to obtain exact information as to the number of Negroes registered in most of the counties since, as a rule, one would have to send some one to each county to examine the records personally; the clerks are very "touchous" on the subject of the number of registered Negro voters, it appearing that they either don't want the world to know the small number registered or they look upon inquiry with suspicion as an effort made to have the Negroes registered in larger numbers.

A FRIEND of mine wrote several clerks some time ago making inquiry as to the number of Negroes registered in their counties and received "curt" replies. I obtained the figures directly from the clerks themselves from fourteen counties over long distance phone which worked like a charm, much better than writing them. I went at it in a round about way by asking for the total registered vote of the county; how many Democrats registered; how many Republicans and if there were any "darkies" registered; if so how many. In that way I got it, the number of Negroes registered appearing to be only incidental. By using the word "darkies" they thought I was white.

There is nothing on this point in the office of the Secretary of State at Jackson, but I have had the records examined in several of the largest counties of the State and find the following number of Negroes registered:

County	County Seat	Negroes 21 years and over 1920	Negroes registered
Hinds	Jackson	17,895	60
Leflore	Greenwood	14,806	40-50
Lauderdale	Meridien	9,266	140
Adams	Natchez	8,655	38
Holmes	Lexington	12,500	30
Marshall	Holly Springs	8,303	40
Sunflower	Indianola	17,791	20
Forrest	Hattiesburg	3,888	10
Sharkey	Rolling Fork	6,223	0
Warren	Vicksburg	12,025	185
Humphreys	Belzone	7,723	0
Washington	Greenville	23,970	148
Rankin	Brandon	4,760	0
Scott	Forrest	2,556	25
Simpson	Mendenhall	2,638	75
Lincoln	Brookhaven	4,105	5
Madison	Canton	10,592	12
Yazoo	Yazoo City	12,759	6
Copiah	Hazelhurst	6,699	1

GOVERNOR BILBO recently nominated, which means elected, Governor of Mississippi for the ensuing term, stated recently to a reporter on the New York *Times:* "There are not 2,000 Negroes qualified to vote". On the other hand the United States census of 1920 declares that of 453,663 Negroes 21 years of age and over living in Mississippi 290,782 can read and write.

I know personally of many instances where college graduates from some of the best schools and professional men were refused registration on the ground that they "couldn't read". This is common.

In most counties, as I have said, they will register a dozen or so Negroes but whenever it looks as if any considerable number is desirous of registering, the books are invariably and irrevocably "closed".

The Negro vote is smaller now than a year ago, since the last legislature called for a new registration and it appears that it is a most difficult matter to get as many on the rolls as were registered before. For example, in Hinds, the largest county in the State, there were 98 Negroes registered a year ago, but only 60 now. I am enclosing a clipping showing the vote in the last Congressional election, which is self explanatory:

As you will see, there were only thirty thousand votes cast in the entire State, for the entire eight congressmen out of a 300,000 Democratic registration; and had it not been that there were several levee constitutional amendments to be voted on, in which there was much interest, the vote would not have been over 12,000 or 15,000 for the entire state, for a congressional election.

I FIND the following record in the Secretary of State's office which gives the vote for state officers in November, 1923:

For Henry L. Whitfield for Governor.....29,137.

All other candidates for state offices received about the same vote. None of them had opposition.

In 1924 the Democratic presidential electors received 100,476 votes, the Coolidge electors received 8,494 votes and the progressives 3,448.

In 1924 the Democrats made a most unusual effort to get out a large vote in order to answer criticism. President Harding received 10,000 votes in this state in 1920. Hence you notice a small falling off in the Republican vote in 1924.

The Federal Courts will not use Negro jurors hereafter as a rule, due to the fact that all jurors will be drawn strictly from the boxes prepared by the local Democratic Circuit clerks and, of course, they would never put a Negro's name in the box.

Heretofore, there have always been several Negroes drawn in the Federal Courts.

After going into this thing and finding the numbers so small in some counties my interest grew and I inquired further than I had intended after getting so few responses to many letters of inquiry sent out. But the truth is most Negroes are even afraid to inquire as to such matters in view of the fact they will be termed "meddlesome" or "bad niggers".

One Boy's Story

A Story by JOSEPH MAREE ANDREW

I'M glad they got me shut up in here. Gee, I'm glad! I used to be afraid to walk in the dark and to stay by myself.

That was when I was ten years old. Now I am eleven.

My mother and I used to live up in the hills right outside of Somerset. Somerset, you know is way up State and there aren't many people there. Just a few rich people in big houses and that's all.

Our house had a nice big yard behind it, beside it and in front of it. I used to play it was my fortress and that the hills beside us were full of Indians. Some days I'd go on scouting parties up and down the hills and fight.

That was in the summer and fall. In the winter and when the spring was rainy, I used to stay in the house and read.

I love to read. I love to lie on the floor and put my elbows down and read and read myself right out of Somerset and of America—out of the world, if I want to.

THERE was just my mother and I. No brothers—no sisters—no father. My mother was awful pretty. She had a roundish plump, brown face and was all plump and round herself. She had black hair all curled up on the end like a nice autumn leaf.

She used to stay in the house all the time and sew a lot for different ladies who came up from the big houses in Somerset. She used to sew and I would pull the bastings out for her. I did not mind it much. I liked to look at the dresses and talk about the people who were to wear them.

Most people, you see, wear the same kind of dress goods all the time. Mrs. Ragland always wore stiff silk that sounded like icicles on the window. Her husband kept the tea and coffee store in Somerset and everybody said he was a coming man.

I used to wonder where he was coming to.

Mrs. Gregg always had the kind of silk that you had to work carefully for it would ravel into threads. She kept the boarding house down on Forsythe Street. I used to like to go to that house. When you looked at it on the outside and saw all the windows and borders running up against it you thought you were going in a palace. But when you got inside you saw all the little holes in the carpet and the mended spots in the curtains and the faded streaks in the places where the draperies were folded.

The pale soft silk that always made me feel like burying my face in it belonged to Mrs. Swyburne. She was rich—awful rich. Her husband used to be some kind of doctor and he found out something that nobody else had found out, so people used to give him plenty of money just to let him tell them about it. They called him a specialist.

HE was a great big man. Nice and tall and he looked like he must have lived on milk and beef-juice and oranges and tomato juice and all the stuff Ma makes me eat to grow. His teeth were white and strong so I guess he chewed his crusts too.

Anyhow, he was big but his wife was all skinny and pale. Even her eyes were almost skinny and pale. They were sad like and she never talked much. My mother used to say that those who did not have any children did not have to talk much anyhow.

She said that to Mrs. Swyburne one time. Mrs. Swyburne had been sitting quiet like she used to, looking at me. She always looked at me anyhow, but that day she looked harder than ever.

Every time I raised up my head and breathed the bastings out of my face, I would see her looking at me.

I always hated to have her look at me. Her eyes were so sad they made me feel as if she wanted something I had.

Not that I had anything to give her because she had all the money and cars and everything and I only had my mother and Cato, my dog, and some toys and books.

But she always looked that way at me and that day she kept looking so long that pretty soon I sat up and looked at her hard.

She sort of smiled then and said, "Do you know, Donald, I was wishing I had a little boy just like you to pull out bastings for me, too."

"You couldn't have one just like me," I said right off quick. Then I quit talking because Ma commenced to frown even though she did not look up at me.

I QUIT because I was going to say, "'Cause I'm colored and you aren't," when Ma frowned.

Mrs. Swyburne still sort of smiled; then she turned her lips away from her teeth the way I do when Ma gives me senna and manna tea.

"No," she said, "I couldn't have a little boy like you, I guess."

Ma spoke right up. "I guess you do not want one like him! You have to talk to him so much."

I knew she meant I talked so much and acted so bad sometimes.

Mrs. Swyburne looked at Ma then. She looked at her hair and face and right down to her feet. Pretty soon she said: "You cannot mind that surely. You seem to have all the things I haven't anyway." Her lips were still held in that lifted, twisted way.

Ma turned around to the machine then and turned the wheel and caught the thread and it broke and the scissors fell and stuck up in the floor. I heard her say "Jesus", to herself like she was praying.

I didn't say anything. I ripped out the bastings. Ma stitched. Mrs. Swyburne sat there. I sort of peeped up at her and I saw a big fat tear sliding down her cheek.

I kind of wiggled over near her and laid my hand on her arm. Then Ma yelled: "Donald, go and get a pound of rice! Go now, I said."

I got scared. She had not said it before and she had a lot of rice in a jar in the closet. But I didn't dare say so. I went out.

I couldn't help but think of Mrs. Swyburne. She ought not to cry so easy. She might not have had a little boy and Ma might have—but she

should have been happy. She had a great big house on the swellest street in Somerset and a car all her own and some one to drive it for her. Ma only had me and our house which wasn't so swell, but it was all right.

THEN Mrs. Swyburne had her husband and he had such a nice voice. You didn't mind leaning on his knee and talking to him as soon as you saw him. He had eyes that looked so smiling and happy and when you touched his hands they were soft and gentle as Ma's even if they were bigger.

I knew him real well. He and I were friends. He used to come to our house a lot of times and bring me books and talk to Ma while I read.

He knew us real well. He called Ma Louise and me Don. Sometimes he'd stay and eat supper with us and then sit down and talk. I never could see why he'd come way out there to talk to us when he had a whole lot of rich friends down in Somerset and a wife that looked like the only doll I ever had.

A lady gave me that doll once and I thought she was really pretty—all pale and blonde and rosy. I thought she was real pretty at first but by and by she seemed so dumb. She never did anything but look pink and pale and rosy and pretty. She never went out and ran with me like Cato did. So I just took a rock and gave her a rap up beside her head and threw her in the bushes.

Maybe Mrs. Swyburne was pale and pink and dumb like the doll and her husband couldn't rap her with a rock and throw her away.

I don't know.

ANYHOW, he used to come and talk to us and he'd talk to Ma a long time after I was in bed. Sometimes I'd wake up and hear them talking. He used to bring me toys until he found out that I could make my own toys and that I liked books.

After that he brought me books. All kinds of books about fairies and Indians and folks in other countries.

Sometimes he and I would talk about the books—especially those I liked. The one I liked most was called "Ten Tales to Inspire Youth".

That sounds kind of funny but the book was great. It had stories in it all about men. All men. I read all of the stories but I liked the one about the fellow named Orestes who went home from the Trojan War and found his mother had married his father's brother so he killed them. I was always sorry for the woman with the whips of flame like forked tongues who used to worry him afterwards. I don't see why the fairies pursued him. They knew he did it because he loved his father so much.

Another story I liked was about Oedipus—a Greek too—who put out his eyes to hurt himself because he killed his father and married his mother by mistake.

But after I read "David and Goliath", I just had to pretend that I was David.

I swiped a half a yard of elastic from Ma and hunted a long time until I found a good forked piece of wood. Then I made a swell sling shot.

THE story said that David asked Jehovah (which was God) to let his sling-shot shoot good. "Do thou lend thy strength to my arm, Jehovah", he prayed.

I used to say that too just to be like him.

I told Dr. Swyburne I liked these stories.

"Why do you like them?" he asked me.

"Because they are about men," I said.

"Because they are about men! Is that the only reason?"

Then I told him no; that I liked them because the men in the stories were brave and had courage and stuck until they got what they wanted, even if they hurt themselves getting it.

And he laughed and said, to Ma: "Louise he has the blood, all right!"

And Ma said: "Yes! He is a true Gage. They're brave enough to put their eyes out too. That takes courage all right!"

Ma and I are named Gage, so I stuck out my chest and said: "Ma, which one of us Gages put his eyes out?"

"Me," she said—and she was standing there looking right at me!

I thought she was making fun. So I felt funny.

DR. SWYBURNE turned red and said: "I meant the other blood, of course. All the Swyburnes are heroes."

I didn't know what he meant. My name is Gage and so is Ma's so he didn't mean me.

Ma threw her head up and looked at him and says: "Oh, are they heroes?" Then she says real quick: "Donald go to bed right now!"

I didn't want to go but I went. I took a long time to take off my clothes and I heard Ma and Dr. Swyburne talking fast like they were fussing.

I couldn't hear exactly what they said but I kept hearing Ma say: "I'm through!"

And I heard Dr. Swyburne say: "You can't be!"

I kind of dozed to sleep. By and by I heard Ma say again: "Well, I'm through!"

And Dr. Swyburne said: "I won't let you be!"

Then I rolled over to think a minute and then go downstairs maybe.

But when I rolled over again, the sun was shining and I had to get up.

Ma never said anything about what happened so I didn't either. She just walked around doing her work fast, holding her head up high like she always does when I make her mad.

So I never said a thing that day.

ONE day I came home from school. I came in the back way and when I was in the kitchen I could hear a man in the front room talking to Ma. I stood still a minute to see if it was Dr. Swyburne though I knew he never comes in the afternoon.

The voice didn't sound like his so I walked in the hall and passed the door. The man had his back to me so I just looked at him a minute and didn't say anything. He had on leather leggins and a sort of uniform like soldiers wear. He was stooping over the machine talking to Ma and I couldn't see his face.

Just then I stumbled over the little rug in the hall and he stood up and looked at me.

He was a colored man! Colored just like Ma and me. You see, there aren't any other people in Somerset colored like we are, so I was sort of surprised to see him.

"This is my son, Mr. Frazier," Ma said.

I said pleased to meet you and stepped on Ma's feet. But not on purpose. You know I kind of thought he was going to be named Gage and be some relation to us and stay at our house awhile.

I never saw many colored people—no colored men—and I wanted to see some. When Ma called him Frazier it made my feet slippery so I stubbed my toe.

"Hello, son!" he said nice and quiet.

HE didn't talk like Ma and me. He talked slower and softer. I liked him straight off so I grinned and said: "Hello yourself."

"How's the books?" he said then.

I didn't know what he meant at first but I guessed he meant school. So I said: "Books aren't good as the fishin'."

He laughed out loud and said I was all right and said he and I were going to be friends and that while he was in Somerset he was going to come to our house often and see us.

Then he went out. Ma told me he was driving some lady's car. She was visiting Somerset from New York and he would be there a little while.

Gee, I was so glad! I made a fishing rod for him that very afternoon out of a piece of willow I had been saving for a long time.

And one day, he and I went down to the lake and fished. We sat still on top a log that went across a little bay like. I felt kind of excited and couldn't say a word. I just kept looking at him every once in a while and smiled. I did not grin. Ma said I grinned too much.

PRETTY soon he said: "What are you going to be when you grow up, son?"

"A colored man," I said. I meant to say some more, but he hollered and laughed so loud that Cato had to run up and see what was doing.

"Sure you'll be a colored man! No way to get out of that! But I mean this: What kind of work are you going to do?"

I had to think a minute. I had to think of all the kinds of work men did. Some of the men in Somerset were farmers. Some kept stores. Some swept the streets. Some were rich and did not do anything at home but they went to the city and had their cars driven to the shop and to meet them at the train.

All the conductors and porters make a lot of scramble to get these men on and off the train, even if they looked as if they could take care of themselves.

So I said to Mr. Frazier: "I want to have an office."

"An office?"

"Yes. In the city so's I can go in to it and have my car meet me when I come to Somerset."

"Fat chance a colored man has!" he said.

"I can too have an office!" I said. He made me sore. "I can have one if I want to! I want to have an office and be a specialist like Dr. Swyburne."

MR. FRAZIER dropped his pole and had to swear something awful when he reached for it though it wasn't very far from him.

"Why'd you pick him?" he said and looked at me kind of mad like and before I could think of what to say he said: "Say son, does that guy come up to see your mother?"

"Sure he comes to see us both!" I said.

Mr. Frazier laughed again but not out loud. It made me sore all over. I started to hit him with my pole but I thought about something I'd read once that said even a savage will treat you right in his house—so I didn't hit him. Of course, he wasn't in my house exactly but he was sitting on my own log over my fishing places and that's like being in your own house.

Mr. Frazier laughed to himself again and then all of a sudden he took the pole I had made him out of the piece of willow I had been saving for myself and laid it across his knees and broke it in two. Then he said out loud: "Nigger women," and then threw the pole in the water.

I grabbed my pole right out of the water and slammed it across his face. I never thought of the hook until I hit him, but it did not stick in him. It caught in a tree and I broke the string yanking it out.

He looked at me like he was going to knock me in the water and even though I was scared, I was thinking how I'd let myself fall if he did knock me off—so that I could swim out without getting tangled in the roots under the bank.

BUT he didn't do it. He looked at me a minute and said: "Sorry, son! Sorry! Not your fault."

Then he put his hand on my hair and brushed it back and sort of lifted it up and said: "Like the rest."

I got up and said I was going home and he came too. I was afraid he would come in but when he got to my gate he said: "So long," and walked right on.

I went on in. Ma was sewing. She jumped up when I came in.

"Where is Mr. Frazier?" she asked me. She didn't even say hello to me!

"I hit him," I said.

"You hit him!" she hollered. "You *hit* him! What did you do that for? Are you crazy?"

I told her no. "He said 'nigger women' when I told him that Dr. Swyburne was a friend of ours and came to see us."

Oh Ma looked terrible then. I can't tell you how she did look. Her face sort of slipped around and twisted like the geography says the earth does when the fire inside of it gets too hot.

SHE never said a word at first. She just sat there. Then she asked me to tell her all about every bit that happened.

I told her. She kept wriggling from side to side like the fire was getting hotter. When I finished, she said: "Poor baby! My baby boy! Not your fault! Not your fault!"

That made me think of Mr. Frazier so I pushed out of her arms and said: "Ma your breast pin hurts my face when you do that!"

She leaned over on the arms of her chair and cried and cried until I cried too.

All that week I'd think of the fire inside of the earth when I looked at Ma. She looked so funny and she kept talking to herself.

On Saturday night we were sitting at the table when I heard a car drive up the road.

"Here's Dr. Swyburne!" I said and I felt so glad I stopped eating.

"He isn't coming here!" Ma said and then she jumped up.

"Sure he's coming," I said. "I know his motor." And I started to get up too.

"You stay where you are!" Ma hollered and she went out and closed the door behind her.

I took another piece of cake and began eating the frosting. I heard Dr. Swyburne come up on the porch.

"Hello, Louise," he said. I could tell he was smiling by his voice.

I couldn't hear what Ma said at first but pretty soon I heard her say: "You can't come here any more!"

THAT hurt my feelings. I liked Dr. Swyburne. I liked him better than anybody I knew besides Ma.

Ma stayed out a long time and by and by she came in alone and I heard Dr. Swyburne drive away.

She didn't look at me at all. She just leaned back against the door and said: "Dear Jesus! With your help I'll free myself."

I wanted to ask her from what did she want to free herself. It sounded like she was in jail or an animal in a trap in the woods.

I thought about it all during supper but I didn't dare say much. I thought about it and pretended that she was shut up in a prison and I was a time fighter who beat all the keepers and got her out.

Then it came to me that I better get ready to fight to get her out of whatever she was in. I never said anything to her. I carried my air-rifle on my back and my slingshot in my pocket. I wanted to ask her where her enemy was, but she never talked to me about it; so I had to keep quiet too. You know Ma always got mad if I talked about things first. She likes to talk, then I can talk afterwards.

One Sunday she told me she was going for a walk.

"Can I go?" I asked her.

"No," she said. "You play around the yard."

Then she put her hat on and stood looking in the mirror at herself for a minute. All of a sudden I heard her say to herself: "All I need is strength to fight out of it."

"Ma'am?" I thought she was talking to me at first.

(*Turn to page* 316)

The Little Page

EFFIE LEE NEWSOME

Calendar Chat

WILD geese have long been pronounced weather prophets. A wise looking old lady from Pennsylvania once told me that she had watched a flock of geese forming themselves into letters in the sky and the letters were "H" and "W", which, according to the old lady, meant *hard winter*.

It is well that the geese are so wise and can spell so readily. But to be serious, they are birds of keen understanding. How adroitly they manage the business of migrating to seasonable spring and autumn homes. I read of a leader of a flock that piloted his followers dangerously near the earth. For this the birds deposed him and appointed a new guide.

When wintering many years ago in Galveston I came upon some wooden decoy ducks in a neighbor's basement. He was painting them in the greenish-blue and brown of a canvasback's colors and was sparing no pains to make the birds look real, for hunted creatures must be sharp observers.

When I saw mallards and teal and canvasbacks years later in Florida, some in the marshes, but more traveling heads downward to the table, I remembered the wooden toys I had seen in the basement in Galveston.

At night in the reeds of Florida one can hear the harsh dank squawking of the water birds and think of how warily they have traveled down from the prospect of cold winters to gold suns and lagoon rushes. They knew just when to pick out a leader—a trusted gander—for the pilgrimage. And they knew when to start, perhaps a hundred in a group, just as squirrels in my back yard understand when their days of pilfering and romping among the leaf-veiled trees must end for the prospect of winter. Titmice and chickadees hopping among the green trees in August seem to me always to be speculating as to how it will feel to dart about there when leaves and showy summer birds are gone and they and the juncos and downy woodpeckers are left to flutter about under winter skies.

JACK O'LANTERN

JACK O'LANTERN lived in a meadow beside a jolly old scarecrow who was dressed in russet and black. The scarecrow was taller than Jack O'Lantern but his head was only the top of a pole, so for all points of

wisdom he found it necessary to consult Jack O'Lantern.

Jack O'Lantern went to one of the village homes on Hallowe'en night and had a pleasant time smiling in a fixed way at a host of merry young folks. He had expected them after the party to return him to the old brown corn field where he had spent all his life with Ike, the scarecrow.

But they failed to do this. He was never replaced in the corn field, but was taken by some one down into a mysterious region pronounced a "basement" and left there, he heard a round-faced woman in an apron proclaim, "till Thanksgiving".

"What in the world does she mean?" Jack wondered. "And what in the world is Thanksgiving? I want to get back to the corn field and nestle at the foot of the nice rustling stack of fodder. This interior is terrible on a good healthy pumpkin. Is there any way out?"

THERE were several ways out. But Jack O'Lantern could not use any of them because in spite of his great thoughtful head he had no feet or legs. Ike the scarecrow was blessed with two legs girded with trousers, but he never went anywhere. He was there in the field now waiting, Jack O'Lantern knew, for some news of the young people's party.

"Of course," thought Jack, "it really would have been worse for him than for me to leave the field. I was simply there growing fat, but he was tending the crops as well as keeping the crows from a crab apple tree near the fence. Such a pleasant fellow, in all weathers the same. There's no companionship here in this horrible basement."

Jack O'Lantern turned his round head in search of an audience. There was nothing but cold walls and some shelves of fruit. He had been placed so dangerously near the edge of a table that he could peer right through the thin curtains of the fruit cupboard and see the jars of glass glowing.

WAY on in the night he heard a little squeaking sound. "Those dreadful field mice," he thought. But it was only a very tiny blackish mouse that hung round the walls of the cellar and lived near a cricket's home.

It went daintily under the fruit cabinet curtains perhaps to smell around for some spilt juice. Then carefully, carefully it slid up to where Jack sat. Two lights flashed. Something soft brushed against Jack O'Lantern and smashed him to the cement floor. He was soon in pieces like Humpty Dumpty. The big gray cat who caught the mouse did not realize that she had thrown Jack O'Lantern from his perch. And Ike the scarecrow never knew what had become of him. Thus were ended the fears and loneliness of Jack O'Lantern in captivity.

Thanksgiving

I AM so thankful to the Lord
For all the good He gives,
For all His joys
To girls and boys
And everything that lives!

I am so glad I know the birds,
Have heard the cardinal sing,
Have found the haws in crimson fruit
And red wings at the spring!

The Butterfly's Home

I FOUND a butterfly's brown home
Swung from a willow bough.
The nest was just a leaf rolled up
Into a cone somehow,
Covered around and round with silk
The caterpillard'd spun,
And fastened firmly to a branch,
Thread after thread, when done,
So that the winter winds might blow
Hard at the little house,
Yet it would keep the butterfly
Warm as a pantry mouse.

"One Misty Moisty Morning"

ONE misty moisty morning
When cloudy was the weather,
I chanced to meet a spider
Of chocolate altogether.
I am sure (*Turn to page* 320)

THE N.A.A.C.P. BATTLE FRONT

THREE legal struggles are now being waged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in as many Northern States, over colored men whom Southern States are seeking to have returned to their jurisdiction for trial. The three cases are as follows:

1. James Blevins, now in Washington, D. C., wanted by Alabama.
2. Edward Glass, now in California, wanted by Oklahoma.
3. Samuel Kennedy, now in Indiana, wanted by Georgia.

In each case return of the colored man to the Southern State desiring jurisdiction is opposed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, not only because of unjust and discriminatory acts already committed against fugitive, but also because of the record of the case, and on the lynching and court record of the State desiring to recover jurisdiction, there is the strongest probability that the victim would be denied justice, if not murdered by a mob.

At the present writing all three cases still await final disposition. They constitute such a raking indictment of the present processes of justice in Southern territory, that a summary of the facts alleged in court may perhaps be sufficient. Let us begin with the case of

James Blevins Wanted in Alabama.

Mr. Blevins was a carpenter and paper-hanger, living with his wife, a daughter and a son in Birmingham. He is reputed to have been industrious and thrifty. He earned from ten to twelve dollars a day, saved his money, educated his children and bought a home, part of which he used for storeroom and office purposes.

Birmingham, like Alabama generally, is Klan-ridden. To incur the enmity of the Ku Klux Klan, it is not necessary to be a criminal. In fact, a prosperous and law-abiding colored man is quite as likely to incur such enmity. In a case of recent record, a colored man was flogged to make him sell cheaply property that he had been unwilling to part with.

Mr. Blevins incurred the enmity of elements which used the signature K. K. K. On June 1, 1926, on the letterhead of one Robert E. Lee, an ungrammatical letter signed K. K. K. was sent Mr. Blevins, giving him 5 days to finish jobs he had undertaken and quit town. Mr. Blevins appealed for aid to a member of the Bar of the

Southern Justice on Trial

State of Alabama and on his advice Mr. Blevins showed the letter to the U. S. Post Office Inspector and the State's Attorney. "Here," says a brief submitted to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, "was an appeal to the Federal and to the State governments, as well as to the lawyer, but it was an appeal made in vain."

Thereafter two white men called upon Mr. Blevins, demanded $100 and the deed to his home and on being refused opened fire on him. He replied with a single shot from a shotgun. He was brutally beaten over the head with pistols, kicked and left unconscious. He was arrested and indicted. Not so his two white assailants. He was thereafter warned to leave and did in fact go from Birmingham to Washington, D. C. "It is to be observed," continues the brief, "that the only persons whose names are endorsed on the back of the indictment as witnesses against appellant are the Dorrough brothers. Why were the two assailants summoned to appear before the grand jury, when it is customary in such cases to summon only one? Was it the purpose to exempt both from prosecution as they would thereby become, under the Alabama system of jurisprudence, for any offense as to which they had testified?"

A letter written by one J. Reese Murray, Attorney-at-Law, in Birmingham, to Mr. Blevins, is also significant. The letter, dated November 22, 1926, is as follows:

"James, your case is set for December 14th. I understand that you have left town which I think is very foolish, for this reason: one of the boys is out of the State at College studying medicine, and it will be practically impossible for him to return. I have already discussed the matter with both of them and they are willing to reduce the case to misdemeanor, and let you go taking a small fine, like I tried to get Judge Abernethy to agree to do, provided you will pay up what you owe them which is something over $100. Now if you want to arrange it this way, and that is by far the best way, you can do so. On the other hand if you don't want to do that, then it is up to me to look you up and have you brought back, and then of course, I would not be willing to help you. Now, of course, looking you up I can do, without much trouble, as I was not with the Government for 15 years for nothing.

"If you are brought back it will go mighty hard with you, on the other hand if you will do like I said in the beginning we can dispose of the case with very little cost, and clear your name forever. So be guided by what you think is best. If you stay away you will be taking a chance with me and with Uncle Sam."

This letter is signed "J. Reese Murray, by L. M."

The case of Mr. Blevins came to Neval H. Thomas, President of the Washington, D. C. Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. who referred Mr. Blevins to the Branch's attorney, Mr. Sylvester L. McLaurin. Mr. McLaurin associated with himself in the case, Professor William H. Richards. The attorneys instituted habeas corpus proceedings and had the extradition writ quashed and Blevins was released. Within twenty minutes he was rearrested and another writ of habeas corpus obtained from another branch of the Supreme Court in the District of Columbia, from whose ruling appeal has now been taken to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, where argument is to be had soon.

In the appeal brief, the validity of the extradition warrant is denied on the following grounds:

"Because said indictment is illegal and invalid in this, that it does not set forth the date on which the alleged crime was committed;

"Because the said indictment was found by a grand jury composed of white men only, Negroes being unjustly excluded therefrom though qualified to serve thereon, designedly, systematically, and as part of the racial policy of the State of Alabama, contrary to law, and to the prejudice of the petitioner, who is a person of color;

"Because said indictment does not, as required by law, set out an extraditable offence;

"Because the State of Alabama and its courts are so dominated by the Ku Klux Klan that a Negro who has been indicted in the State for assault upon a white man is denied a fair and impartial trial and to deliver your petitioner to the State of Alabama is to deny him due process of law and the equal protection of the laws."

It would be difficult to find a more stinging indictment of a State, its government and its administration of justice than this. A close second will be found in the case of

Edward Glass Wanted in Oklahoma.

Edward Glass, about 40 years old, living in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, owner

of a hotel, cafe and undertaking establishment and a number of houses which he rented out, became in virtue of his position and his means, a factor in local politics. Among his opponents was the local Chief of Police, Morey by name. Mr. Morey is quoted as saying that "if my faction wins the town will be too small for that 'nigger' and myself".

Morey's faction did win and a series of raids were undertaken against Glass' place of business. They became so offensive that Glass applied to a white lawyer for an injunction to prevent the Police Department from making further such raids. The case was to come up in court on January 3, 1923. The police chief informed of it, is reported on the night of January 2, to have gone with, or sent, four non-uniformed men to raid Glass' place. Glass had closed and had turned out his lights when he heard someone trying to force his front door and saw three or four men with drawn revolvers. Prior to this time his place had been held up twice. He dropped behind his counter and began to crawl toward the rear of his store. Passing under his burglar light, he was fired upon, being wounded. He got to his revolver and returned the fire in the direction from which it had come. He was wounded three times, his gun being shot from his hand. He escaped from the town into the hills and learned next day that he had killed a man and wounded two others. He reached Oakland, California, finally and was there conducting a small restaurant business when extradition proceedings were begun. In the meantime, his hotel and undertaking parlor were burned to the ground in Salpulpa, no one being punished for the outrage, and a man named Ragsdale, accused of having assisted Glass to escape, was shot to death while handcuffed, on the alleged ground that he was "trying to escape". Glass was arrested in Oakland, California on August 31, 1927.

When extradition papers reached Governor C. C. Young of California, the Northern California Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. at once rallied for defense. Appeals were made to the Governor not to sign the extradition warrant on the ground that Glass would not be given a fair trial if returned to Oklahoma and that he would, in fact, be lynched as soon as he reached the State. The National Office forwarded to the Branch statistics embodied in a sworn statement by the Secretary, showing that since 1889, there had been recorded 89 lynchings in the State of Oklahoma, most of them unpunished.

The Governor signed the warrant of rendition but exacted a promise from the local District Attorney, of Alameda County, California, that the defendant be accorded full opportunity to present his case before California Courts. And a writ of habeas corpus was obtained. At latest reports the writ was filed in the Federal Court where it was to be argued on September 26, the defense seeking to prove that return to Oklahoma would mean either death to Glass before his trial or a trial so influenced by mob spirit and mob threats that it would be a violation of his Constitutional rights.

The third of the extradition cases that came to a focus in the month of September, 1927, originated in Georgia, a state well known for its lynching record. The case involved a dramatic series of attempts by a Georgia Sheriff to remove his prisoner by automobile and train, beginning in Illinois and coming to a temporary halt in Indiana, where the case was brought before the courts by the N. A. A. C. P. The case is that of

Samuel Kennedy Wanted in Georgia.

Extraditions to Georgia have been denied before this, by Northern Governors, at the instance of the N. A. A. C. P., because of Georgia's lynching record and the absence of any assurance that a fair trial would be given a colored man if returned there. Samuel Kennedy, charged with having "slapped" a white man in Georgia, and with having escaped after a chain gang sentence of 18 months had been imposed upon him for the crime, was found by a Georgia Sheriff in Chicago, where he was taken in custody. The colored man denied ever having lived in Georgia, declared he knew nothing of the crime attributed to him and affirmed that he could furnish an unassailable alibi as to his whereabouts at the time the alleged "slapping" took place.

After a hard fight by the N. A. A. C. P. Branch in Chicago, the colored man was remanded to the care of the Georgia Sheriff, who at once left, secretly by automobile but, missing connections with his train at Terre Haute, Indiana, temporarily turned his prisoner over to the local sheriff, for the night, thereby losing custody. This slip was taken advantage of by the Terre Haute N. A. A. C. P. whose attorney obtained a writ which detained the Georgia Sheriff longer than he had anticipated.

Two attorneys, Harold M. Tyler of Chicago and R. L. Bailey of Indianapolis took the case with the express intention of carrying it before the State Supreme Court in Indiana, if necessary. The Circuit Court at Terre Haute has taken jurisdiction, and after a struggle granted a continuation until October 5. The Georgia Sheriff had an automobile bearing a Georgia license, ready to carry Kennedy to the South where they "understand" the Negro. But he was forced once more to wait upon the action of a Northern Court of law.

A recital of the bare facts in the above three cases, will show conclusively that the N. A. A. C. P. is not desirous of preventing the bringing of criminals to trial. But it will exert its utmost efforts to prevent the return of any colored man accused of crime to a community guilty of offenses against him, where the record of lawlessness and the present temper is such that it is virtually certain a fair trial, if not any trial at all, would be denied at the behest of a mob.

What is on trial in these cases is not the unfortunate colored man, but the fabric of Southern justice and the civilization which in one State subjects law to the dictation of hooded gangs of cowardly floggers and thugs, in two other States, makes lynching or trial in a court dominated by a potential lynching mob almost a certainty. It is on the issue of Southern justice and its administration to the Negro, excluded almost universally from jury service, that the N. A. A. C. P. is fighting the extradition cases, some of which it has won in the past, three of which it has had to undertake in the month of September.

H. J. S.

400 *BRANCHES OR* 1,000?

To increase its effectiveness and to widen its field of action, the Association has embarked on a campaign to increase the present number of its Branches from 400 (of which some are inactive) to 1,000, all of them active, all of them vigilant in behalf of those rights and privileges which alone constitute and safeguard the United States citizenship of the American Negro.

In the year 1928, the N. A. A. C. P. wants to increase the number of its active Branches to 1,000. Many places in the North with considerable Negro populations are now without a Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. In those very places some case is more than likely to arise, jeopardizing the property or even the life of a Negro and the citizenship of all Negroes. Numerous communities in the South, well able to organize and maintain a Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. are without one. In those communities, both North and South, the status of every Negro will be assured, and defense be made easier by the organization of a Branch.

The National Office therefore asks that the members of every existing Branch Executive Committee, designate a Committee to organize new Branches in nearby places. Names and addresses of these Committees when chosen should be sent to the National Office without delay.

R. W. B.

THE POET'S CORNER

To Those Dead and Gone

By ALLISON DAVIS

LIE broken in the dark, cool loam
You still enrich, not with your force now,
But with your peace. You are a home
Where I return for wisdom, how

To know my own dark roots and this
Day's newer race, a mute, mysterious
Past, whose shrouded sorrow is
A sign the fates have set us.

Nor are you as a past we scorn;
No mock was yours to us unknown.
We who to daily shame are born
Learn from you in whom our seed is sown.

But tragedy is more than token;
Here life and beauty lie frustrate,
As lie unnumbered broken
Races in the soil of every state.

The Sun of Brittainy

Translated from the French

By JESSIE FAUSET

I

"THE sea compels me; sister I must go.
Nay! Do not hold me,—I'm of age you know!
I am a Breton and of noble birth.
The pathway of the ocean draws me so!"

"But, brother, if you leave, what good am I on earth?
Without you, dear, my life is poor and cold.
Ah! stir not from our fold!
Remain with me until we both are old!
Our mountain life is happy, brother dear.
And then in Brittainy the sunlight is so clear!"

II

"Upon a vessel which shall bear your name
A captain I'll return, but still the same.
Within three years we'll own these woods, this land;
And lords of all we'll be, and all will claim."

"But think," said she, "what more can you demand?
Our cottage rises from the earth's brown mold,
And happy, happy is our humble fold.
Remain with me until we both are old!
Our mountain life is happy, brother dear,
And then in Brittainy the sunlight is so clear!"

III

But he must leave her though the heavens fall.

Annie and Madalene Stone, St. Louis, Mo.

Ten lonely years—no word from him, no call!
Beside the hearth his sister, his best friend,
Wept, constant, wearing sorrow as a pall.
Then suddenly her grief comes to an end.
One day a sailor, shipwrecked, racked with cold,
Sought shelter.
"You! My brother, grown so old!"
"Yes, sister mine, I've come back to the fold.
This mountain life will heal my suffering drear.
And sweetest Brittainy, thy sunlight is so clear!"

A FOURTEEN year old youngster, Aubert Williams, is author of the following bit of verse. Aubert, who was abandoned by his parents, is an inmate of the California State School for boys, located at Whittier, California.

Thanksgiving

WHEN the odors from the kitchen
Tantalizin' and bewitchin'
Set a feller's palate itchin'
Aggravate your appetite;
When you smell the Turkey bakin',
See the cake your ma's a makin'
Covered thick with icy flakin',
Ain't you dyin' for a bite?

When the pumpkin, fat and yeller,
And the cider from the cellar,
Start appearin' on the scene;
When you smell the scent o' spices
An' o' canned fruit cut in slices
And the freezer's freezin' ices,
Can you guess what it may mean?

When you see your Ma's a-bastin'
O' the turkey, an' a-tastin'
O' the luscious pastry pastin'
At this magic time o' year,
Don't a funny sort o' feelin'
Come into your heart a-stealin',
Don't you kinda feel like kneelin',
Givin' thanks—Thanksgivin's here?

Sunset

By GLADYS MITCHELL

I SAW the fingers of the West
Caress the sky last night.
They pressed it very tenderly,
Then disappeared from sight.
And into every shallow groove
Their finger prints had made,
I watched the golden glowing light
Of evening, sink and fade.

Winter for Rememberance

By DOROTHY KRUGER

WHEN winter touched her hair
And cooled desire,
She often rested where
A friendly fire
Could warm her chair;

And held the crystal flowers
And drops of jade,
And reeling ivory towers
Remembrance made
Of brimful hours,

And set them in the wide
Red cabinet
Where once she thought to hide
A young kiss wet
With tears inside.

And then, though winter's trace
Was on desire,
Her eyes would melt frost lace
And shadow fire
Dance on her face.

Montmartre Beggar Woman

By LANGSTON HUGHES

ONCE you were beautiful,—
Now,
Hunched in the cold,
Nobody cares
That you are old.

Once you were lovely,—
Now,
In the street,
No one remembers
Your lips were sweet.

Oh, withered old woman
Of rue Fontaine
Nobody but Death
Will kiss you again.

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

MEETINGS

¶ The prize winners of the Rodman Wanamaker Contest for Negro Music, were announced at the annual convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians, held in St. Louis in August. The winners were: Wellington Adams, Washington, D. C.; Frank Tizol, New York City; Harry E. Rush, Philadelphia, Pa.; Fred M. Byran, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Hinton Jones, New York City; Wesley Howard, Washington, D. C.; Miss Maude O. Bonner, Roxbury, Mass.; J. Howard Brown, Kansas City, Kan.; Richard Oliver, Des Moines, Iowa; Fred O. Griffen, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. C. B. Cooley, Roxbury, Mass.; Oscar Howard, Philadelphia, Pa.; John A. Gray, Los Angeles, Calif.; and George Duckett, Philadelphia, Pa. It was further announced at the convention that Mr. Wanamaker will offer prizes next season to be competed for again by composers of the Negro race.

¶ The Southern Intercollegiate Coaches Association held their annual meeting at Atlanta, Georgia, on the 16th and 17th of September. Officials were elected for the coming season and new officials were added to the staff.

PERSONAL

¶ J. Rupert Jefferson of Parkersburg, W. Va., was recently appointed a member of the Advisory Council to the State Board of Education by Governor Howard M. Goer. Mr. Jefferson has had thirty years' experience in school work and is at present Supervising Principal of the Parkersburg Schools.

¶ R. L. Bailey, of Indianapolis, Indiana, sat as special judge in the Marion County Circuit Court recently by special appointment of Judge Harry O. Chamberlain.

Lieutenant Wesley Williams, New York Fire Department, page 305

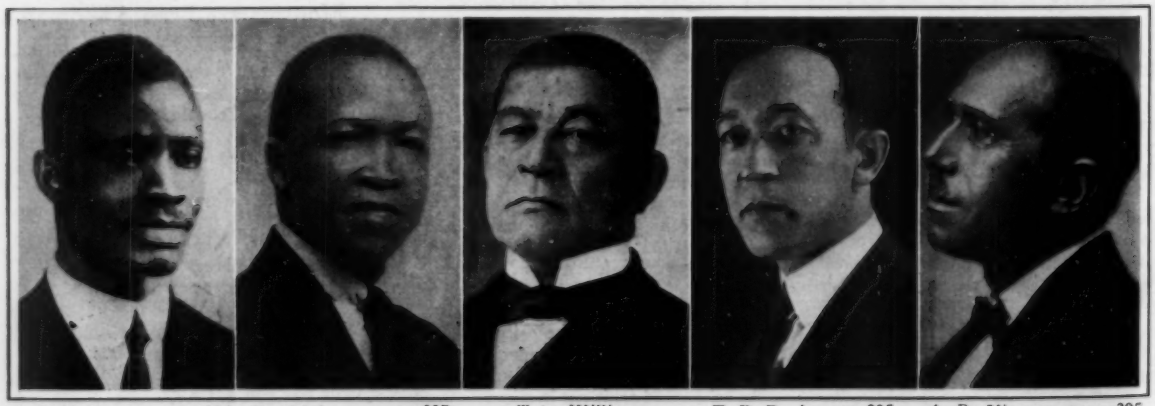
¶ Hale Woodruff, twenty-seven years old, sailed for Europe in September to spend two years in the study of art in France, Italy and Spain. Mr. Woodruff is financed by the Harmon Award in Art, the promised sale of pictures and a contribution by Otto H. Kahn of New York. He won the second prize for art in THE CRISIS Contest of 1926.

¶ Mrs. Mary Ross, mother of Mrs. Elizabeth Ross Haynes of New York City, died recently at Montgomery, Alabama, after an illness of several months. During reconstruction days, Mrs. Ross and her husband bought a farm of seven hundred acres in Lowndes County, Alabama, where she lived until her recent illness.

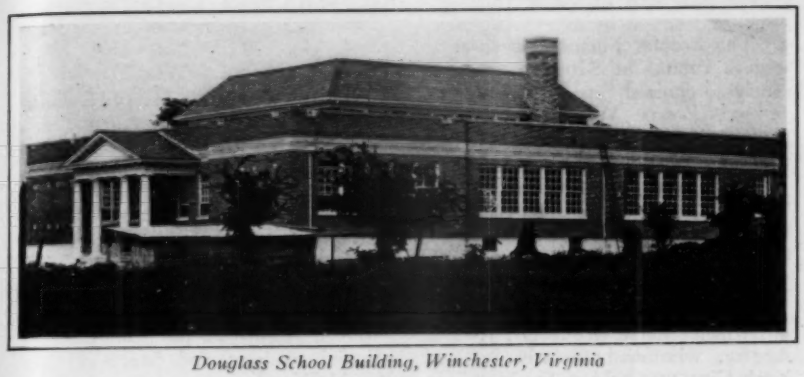
¶ The Etude Magazine recently accepted and is publishing five educational manuscripts by Lulu D. Hopkins, an Alabama teacher of the piano. Two of the manuscripts appeared in the July and August issues of the magazine. Miss Hopkins has the distinction of being the only colored woman contributor to this magazine.

¶ Dr. D. C. Malekebu, Providence Industrial Mission, Chiradzulo, Nyasaland, British Central Africa, was partly educated in this country. He interned in hospitals in Philadelphia and New York City and returned to his home with his wife in 1919. Soon after their arrival there, they were cast into prison and deported. After a long stay in West Africa, Dr. Malekebu returned to Nyasaland and he is now rebuilding his mission.

¶ Tobe Williams, known as "Dean of Southern Pacific Chefs", is dead at Oakland, California, after a brief illness. Mr. Williams was recently retired after forty-five years of continuous service on the private cars of three presidents of the company.



J. E. K. Aggrey, page 306 *Dr. Molema, page* 307 *Tobe Williams* *T. R. Davis, page* 305 *A. B. Vincent, page* 305



Douglass School Building, Winchester, Virginia

¶ *The Pioneer*, a white literary journal published in North Carolina, recently awarded a first prize in poetry to George L. Allen for his poem, "Carolina Winds".

¶ Wesley Williams of New York City, was recently appointed as Lieutenant in the New York Fire Department. Mr. Williams is the first Negro officer in the Department.

EDUCATION

¶ Miss Frances B. Grimes of Atlanta, Ga., who was granted the degree of B. A. from Fisk University in June, has been awarded the Juilliard Scholarship for study in pianoforte at Fisk University.

¶ The cornerstone for the new Douglass school building at Winchester, Va., was laid in September. Kelly Miller, dean of the school of Science and Art, Howard University, was speaker of the day.

¶ Hampton Institute began its sixtieth year of work September 22, with the largest enrollment in the history of the school. More than one thousand students registered for classes.

¶ Over five hundred full-fledged college students began work at Fisk University in September. Many new courses have been added to the curriculum and over $75,000 have been spent in repairs and equipment.

¶ Thomas R. Davis has been inaugurated president of Samuel Huston College, Texas.

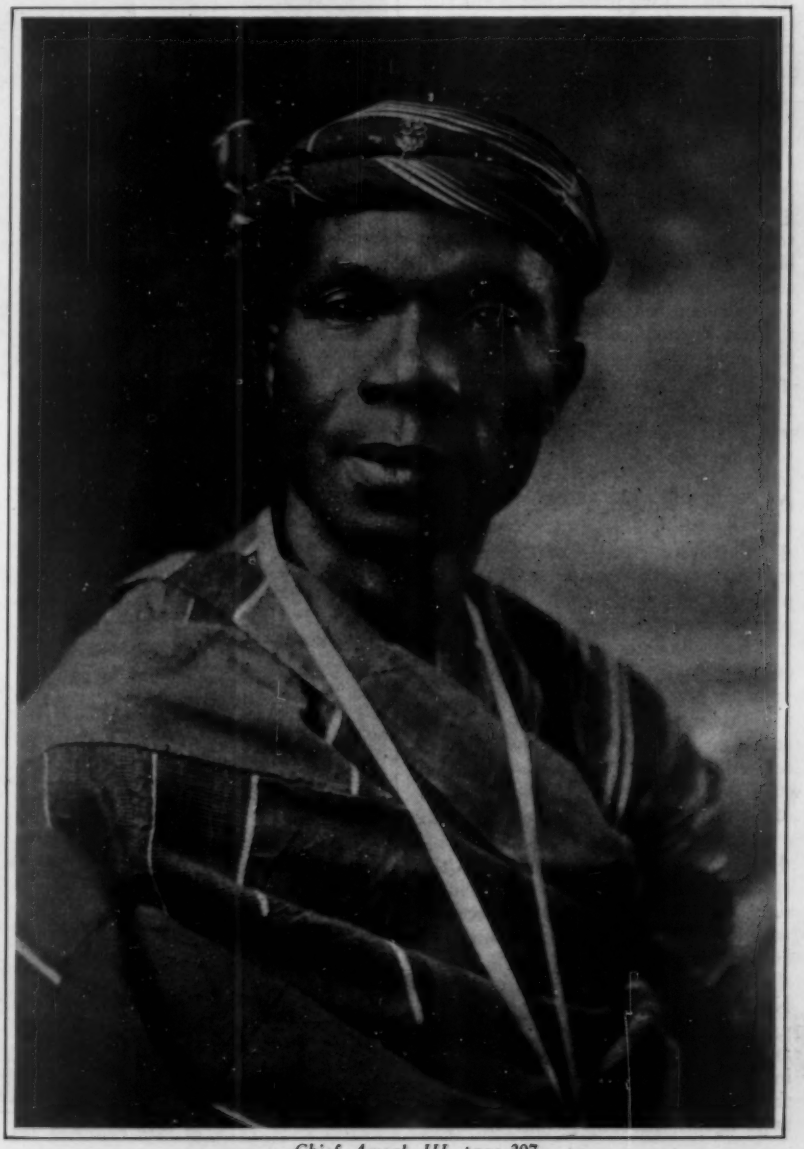
¶ St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, Lawrenceville, Va., opened its doors for its fortieth annual session September 13, with an enrollment of 550 pupils. Ground has been broken for a new $40,000 practice school building.

¶ Miss Eunice V. Pepsico of Chilicothe, Ohio, was granted the degree of M. S. from Ohio State University this summer.

¶ Since 1923 the State Department of Education of North Carolina has been rating Negro colleges. In 1927 it reports as Class A colleges the following institutions: A. & I. State Normal; Atlanta University; Fisk University; Hampton Institute; Howard University; Johnson C. Smith University; Lincoln University, Pennsylvania; Morehouse College; Prairie View State N. & I. College; Shaw University; Talladega College; Virginia N. & I. Institute; Virginia Union University; West Virginia Collegiate Institute; Wilberforce University; Wiley College, and Winston Salem Teachers' College.

¶ Mrs. Inez B. Prosser received the degree of M. A. at the August convocation of the University of Colorado.

¶ The late Andrew Brown Vincent who died recently in New York was born in North Carolina in 1858, and was educated at Shaw and in Massachusetts. He taught for nine years in Shaw University and since then was active in Missionary and Sunday School work, conducting bible institutes among the Baptists and serving as Pastor and Editor. He was the father of seven children and a man of earnestness and sterling character.



Chief Amoah III, page 307

SOCIAL PROGRESS

¶ The Louisville Public Library reports for the fiscal year ending August 31, that there are eighty-five centers for the circulation of books to Negroes in Louisville and Jefferson counties. There are 26,009 volumes in the department, an increase of 396 books during the year. The circulation of books was 142,726, an increase of 15,160.

¶ The Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School at Philadelphia, Pa., is constructing a Nurses' Dormitory, which, when completed will cost $73,000. When the nurses move into their new quarters the hospital proper will have a 100 bed capacity.

¶ A prize competition has been announced under the auspices of the Lawyers Club of the University of Michigan. Two prizes, one $500 and the other $250 are offered for the best essays on "American Institutions". Inquiries for information regarding this competition should be addressed to Professor Grover C. Grismore, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Lawyers' Club of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

¶ The Supreme Court of Georgia recently declared the Atlanta "barber bill", prohibiting Negro barbers from cutting the hair of white children under fourteen years of age, contrary to the constitutions of both the state and nation.

¶ The "History of the 25th Infantry", the famous Negro Regiment, was published recently. It attempts to record the achievements of the regiment after the Civil War on the American Frontier; at San Juan Hill; and the Philippines.

¶ Thirty-six percent of the population of Norfolk, Va., is colored. The principal occupations in which this population is engaged are the building trades, loading and unloading ship cargoes, coal trimmers, lumber yard work, tobacco stemming, etc. There are thirteen colored schools with an attendance of over 7,000; sixty-eight colored churches; and a bank with a paid up capital of $110,000, deposits of $568,402 and total assets of $713,084.

¶ A remonstrance suit, barring the erection of a storeroom in the North side residential section was recently won by colored people of Indianapolis, Indiana.

¶ Harry H. Pace, President of the Northeastern Life Insurance Company, Newark, N. J., owned and operated by Negroes, is credited with having pointed out to New Jersey officials the defects in the system of computing taxes against insurance concerns. The system had been in vogue thirty-five years.

¶ The Peoples Finance Corporation, with a capital of $100,000, was recently organized at Newark, New Jersey. Roscoe W. H. Buckner is president and David D. Woody, treasurer of the company.

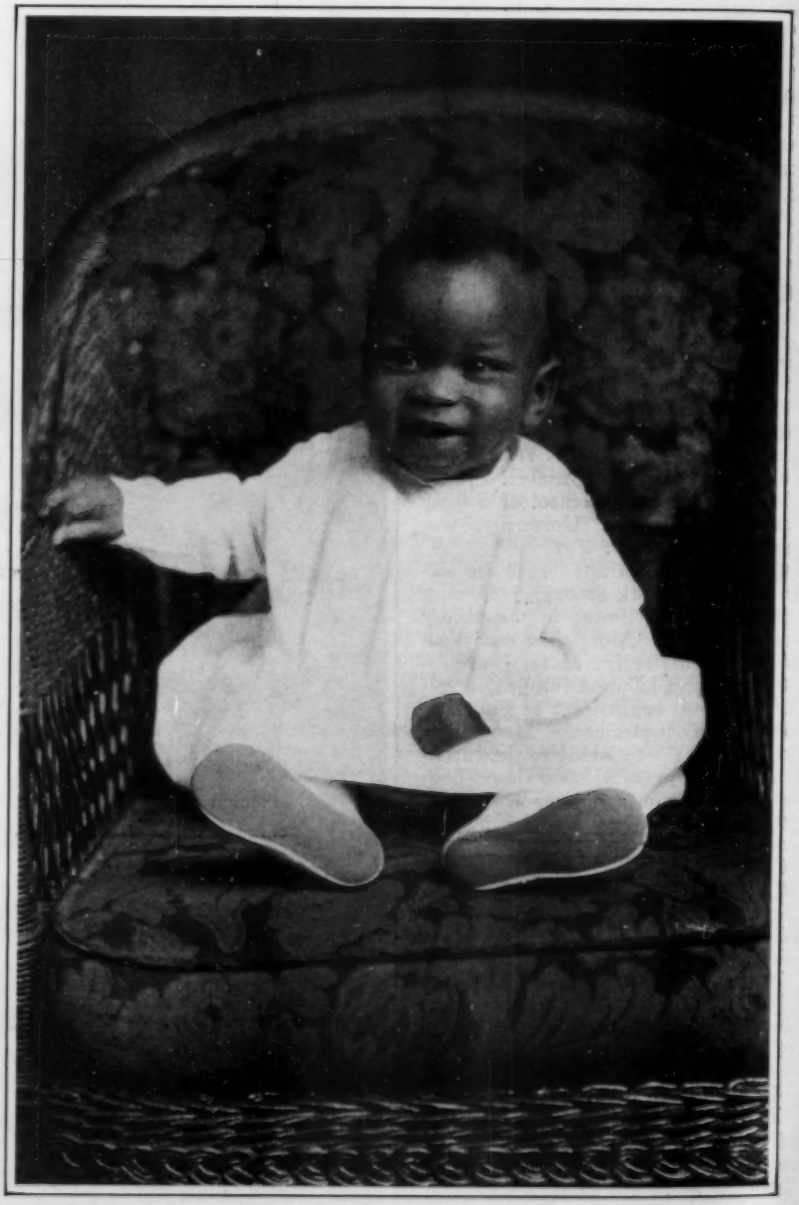
¶ The American Bankers' Association Journal published in September an article on "The Negro Bank Movement".

ENGLAND

¶ A memorial service to Dr. J. E. K. Aggrey, who died recently in New York City, was held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Church, London, in August. The sermon was preached by the Reverend M. J. Elliott, a former Wesleyan missionary in West Africa.

¶ The funeral of Sir Harry H. Johnston, Special Commissioner in Uganda in 1899, took place early in August at Poling Church cemetery in Arundel, Sussex, England. Sir Harry Johnston's outstanding work while he was stationed in Africa was the Uganda Agreement, by which the chiefs of that country secured title to their land.

¶ The colonial societies of Belgium gathered recently to pay tribute to the colonial pioneers and heroes of the World War.



H. P. James, Jr., Bluefield, W. Va.

Leone and Edward Boyle, Newark, N. J.

Miss F. B. Grimes, page 305

PORTO RICO

¶ America's first School of Tropical Medicine at San Juan, Porto Rico, has completed its first year and the first person to receive a certificate from the institution is Dr. Gurbax Singh Sant of Amritsar, India. Dr. Sant was the first student to enroll when the school opened last year.

EAST AFRICA

¶ A "White Paper" has been issued by the British Government outlining the policy in East Africa. It recommends federation and changes in the power of legislative councils so as to associate immigrants and "ultimately natives in the work of government". Also a "complementary" political development of native and non-native. It reports that in Kenya "the interest of African natives must be paramount". This document was drawn up four years ago.

ABYSSINIA

¶ The Abyssinian government, under His Highness, Ras Taffari Makonnen, is considering the proposed construction of a dam by the British at the outlet of Lake Tsana.

BELGIAN CONGO

¶ The native population of the Belgian Congo was recently reported to be 7,692,573. This estimate relates only to those natives who reported to the census officials.

GOLD COAST

¶ During the past twenty-five years the revenue of the Gold Coast has risen from £333,283 to £4,365,320. The two chief causes of this rapid progress are cocoa and trade communications. In 1881, 80 pounds of cocoa were exported; in 1910, 10,000 pounds; and in 1926, 231,000 pounds. In 1900 there was no harbor and only a few miles of railway and motor road. By 1919 there were two boat harbors; 492 miles of railway; and 4,680 miles of motor road.

¶ Chief Amoah III of the Gold Coast descends from one of the oldest of the royal families of West Africa. He traces his decent with documentary evidence back to the thirteenth century. But Chief Amoah is a thoroughly modern man and is interested in the economic emancipation of the black cocoa growers of the Gold Coast. He has tried to get banking and credit facilities in England and for some time lately, has been in close consultation with the leading bankers of New York City. It is said that an American branch bank may soon be established in West Africa. Chief Amoah III took a prominent part in the second and fourth Pan African congresses.

¶ The Gold Coast Railway is now operating on 492 miles and has cost over $40,000,000. The gross receipts are over $5,000,000 annually and 1,500,000 passengers are carried together with 805,000 tons of goods. Natives are the workmen, foremen and largely the engineers, mechanics and clerks.

SIERRA LEONE

¶ The question of slavery in Sierra Leone is claiming the attention of the British Government. A recent decision of the Sierra Leone Supreme Court claims that slave owners have legal rights in the recapture of their runaway slaves. When the Protectorate came under British supervision, an ordinance was passed to the effect that no child should be born in slavery and that on the death of an owner, all his slaves should become free.

¶ An official report on the trade condition of Sierra Leone during 1926 states that imports amounted to £1,844,122 against £2,178,461 in 1925. Exports amounted to £1,871,446 in 1926 and £1,820,635 in 1925.

RHODESIA

¶ Mr. Howard Moffat has been appointed Premier and Minister of Native Affairs in Rhodesia. Mr. Moffat was born in 1869. He entered politics in 1914 as Minister of Mines and Works.

SOUTH AFRICA

¶ Dr. Molema, a native of the Barolong Tribe of South Africa, is a medical graduate of Edinburgh and has the only X-ray machine at Mafeking. He is married to a Barolong girl, formerly a school teacher of splendid ability. Dr. Molema, as we mentioned in the July CRISIS, is having trouble because he has so many white patients. White nurses at the hospital struck against him but were compelled to return. The Union of South Africa is now considering a law to keep Negroes from treating white patients!

NIGERIA

¶ There has been little change in the status of official education in Nigeria during 1926. The training college at Katsina graduated fourteen students with second and third class certificates. There were fifteen primary, forty-seven elementary and six schools for art and crafts in 1926. This is an increase over 1925 when there were fifteen elementary schools.

ITALY

¶ President King of Liberia was the recipient of many courtesies during his visit to Rome. He was the guest of the Government at the Hotel Excelsior; Sr. Grandi, of the Foreign Office, entertained him at a banquet attended by high officials of the State; he visited the tombs of the late King Victor Emmanuel III, Umberto I, Margherita and Italy's Unknown Soldier at the Pantheon; and he visited the Vatican where he was received with honors in the Court of San Damaso by the Papal Chamberlain, Mgr. Caccia Dominioni and the Marquis Sacripante and was led to the Pope's private library where the Pope received him.

THE BROWSING READER

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON'S "Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man", which first appeared in 1912, has been republished by Knopf, with an introduction by Carl Van Vechten. Mr. Van Vechten says: "The Autobiography, of course, in the matter of specific incident, has little enough to do with Mr. Johnson's own life, but it is imbued with his own personality and feeling, his views of the subjects discussed, so that to a person who has no previous knowledge of the author's own history, it reads like real autobiography. It would be truer, perhaps, to say that it reads like a composite autobiography of the Negro race in the United States in modern times". The book is beautifully bound and printed.

"In Spite of Handicaps" by Ralph W. Bullock (Association Press, New York), is a series of "brief biographies of Negroes who, in spite of the inevitable limitations they must face, are achieving distinction in business, the professions, and art". Among the persons mentioned are Roland Hayes, Mordecai W. Johnson, Robert Russa Moton, Countée Cullen, Harry T. Burleigh, George W. Carver, John Hope, Henry O. Tanner and others. All of the biographies are short and there are questionnaires and a bibliography. The little book should be popular in homes and schools.

Wendell P. Dabney has written and issued from his own publishing company a little biography of Maggie L. Walker, the president of the St. Luke's Bank in Richmond, Virginia, and Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of St. Luke. The book is a collection of tributes to a remarkable woman, with a brief biographical sketch. It quotes the great word of the Governor of Virginia: "If the State of Virginia had done no more in fifty years with the funds spent on the education of the Negroes, than educate Mrs. Walker, the State would have been amply repaid for its outlay and efforts". The book should have wide reading.

Countée Cullen's "Copper Sun" is full of exquisite poetry and adds to his rapidly growing reputation. What can be more beautiful than this bit:

"I am no longer lame since Spring
Stooped to me where I lay,
And charmed with flute and silver lute
My laggard limbs to play.
Her voice is sweet as long-stored wine;
I leap like a bounded fawn;
I rise and follow over hill and hollow
To the flush of the crimson dawn!"

"Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man", "In Spite of Handicaps", Dabney's Life of Maggie L. Walker, Cullen's "Copper Sun", etc.

We have received Thomas J. Flanagan's "Road to Mount McKeithan and Other Verses". It has some poetic touches.

The Vanguard Press has sent us six of their latest publications: Wood's "Heavenly Discourse", full of satire on religion; Edge's "The Main Stem", a story of a migratory worker; "The Foundations of Modern Civilization" by Thomas and Hamm, an excellent economic history; Kropotkin's "Great French Revolution", a story of economic change; and Brokaw's "Equitable Society and How to Create It", an argument for saving and better money. These books are only fifty cents and our readers should buy them.

WE have received three studies of Negro life: Abram L. Harris's "Negro Population in Minneapolis", Niles Carpenter's "Nationality, Color and Economic Opportunity in the City of Buffalo" and T. Edward Hill's "Report of the West Virginia Bureau of Negro Welfare and Statistics for 1925-26." They are all of them encouraging.

In Minneapolis one sees a great increase in the ownership of homes and some industrial opportunity. In Buffalo, out of twenty-eight trade unions covering kinds of work in which Negroes were employed, twelve certainly excluded Negroes and many others probably did. Among the conclusions are that the Negro has proven himself capable of holding employment over a fairly long period of time; that his economic status is improved by education; that he does not pay disportionate rent although he is partially segregated; that marital conditions were normal and housing conditions not bad. In work, however, the Negro was pretty narrowly limited to unskilled and menial labor and personal service

Occasional Papers 23 and 24 of the Trustees of the John F. Slater Fund, are "Five Letters of the University Commission on Southern Race Questions" and "Native African Races and Culture" by James Weldon Johnson. The letters show what the advocates of the new interracial reconstruction in the South have dared to say since 1912. They take up lynching, education, migration, interracial co-operation and law enforcement. The central spirit is perhaps this sentence: "It is my firm belief that it is entirely possible for the two races in the South to live together harmoniously on terms of co-operation and friendship with a satisfactory adjustment of the differences on both sides".

Mr. Johnson's brochure is an excellent compilation of well-known facts of African culture not hereto available in so handy a form.

W. E. B. D.

THE CRISIS wishes to purchase copies of "The Quest of the Silver Fleece", a novel by W. E. B. Du Bois, published by A. C. McClurg and Company in 1911.

IN THE MAGAZINES

SO much has been written to cover up the shrewd exploitation of African labor, that it was with a distinct feeling of pleasure that we read "Achimota: An Experiment in Education" in *Landmark* for August. Achimota, a co-educational institution situated on the Gold Coast, Africa, is not quite a year old and it already has an encouraging enrollment in the lower grades. The aim of the university is to teach Africans the essentials of leadership. We will watch the Achimota experiment with extreme interest.

Perhaps the most unprejudiced article we have found within the year on "The Struggle in Africa" is written by Raymond L. Buell in *Foreign Affairs* for October. Natives have been obliged to adjust themselves in the small space of twenty-five years to the petty devices of an industrial civilization. In conclusion Mr. Buell says: "It will be futile if the white governments attempt to stamp out the Negro's aspirations. The intelligent governments of Africa today are attempting to train their populations so that eventually . . . they might be able to govern themselves".

"African Memories of a Sculptor" by Anna Quinquaid in the *World Today* for July, is an account of Miss Quinquaid's wanderings over Africa in search of beauty. She found it there in the hot (*Turn to page* 322)

THE FAR HORIZON

HORATIUS AT THE BRIDGE

WE quote from the Memphis, Tenn., *Every Appeal:*

No Negro policemen, no Negro firemen and no general admission of Negroes to Overton Park.

That was the answer of Mayor Rowlett Paine today to the demands of the West Tennessee Civic and Political League, a Negro political organization.

The Mayor's complete statement follows:

The West Tennessee Civic and Political League, a Negro political organization, has publicly announced that it intends to ask for the appointment of Negro policemen, Negro firemen and the general admission of Negroes into Overton Park, including the zoo, at all times.

I deeply deplore the political activities that led to the formation of a Negro organization that voices such demands at the beginning of the municipal campaign. The politicians who herded the Negroes and voted them in droves in the state Democratic primary last year paved the way for the situation now confronting the people of Memphis and constituting the greatest menace to white supremacy in this city since reconstruction days.

The evils of the situation have been aggravated by the recent appeals for racial solidarity and political mass action by the Negroes.

There are many intelligent, law-abiding Negroes in Memphis, and there is nothing to fear from the votes of this class, nor is there any impropriety in candidates for office making any legitimate appeal for the support of a Negro who votes his own convictions.

It is a vastly different situation, however, when a Negro political club has been organized with the thought that it can dominate the politics of the city of Memphis, and no white man whose political morality is above the level of the carpetbagger, will give aid and comfort to a political organization of Negroes that has as its principal object the control of city elections with the solid Negro vote.

There is no use in mincing words about the matter, and my answer to the demands of this Negro political league is the direct and positive statement that there will be no Negro policemen, no Negro firemen, nor removal of the restrictions now governing the admission of Negroes to the white parks of the city, including the Overton Park zoo, as long as I have any voice in the control of the city government.

HAPPY INDIANAPOLIS

A COLUMNIST in the Indianapolis *Star* has her say after the annual conference of the N. A. A. C. P.:

Reading the utterances of many speakers . . . lately in Indianapolis it sounded as if both white and Negro orators had dedicated themselves to keeping alive the flames of resentment and race hatred. One of these, evidently so dedicated, sent from afar to "investigate" us told me an amazing tale of our Negroes "being barred from living in decent parts of the city, trading in decent shops, enjoying good films and so on and so on". I asked her if she had gone out North Senate, Capitol and Northwestern avenues, or out in the northwestern part to see the attractive homes there, the fine new school buildings, the prosperous churches, the movie houses showing the same films, though a bit later, that are shown in all film theaters, the beautiful park where these families may enjoy themselves undisturbed by others. No, she hadn't seen any of this, she had gotten all her information from Miss X, herself a comparative stranger in Indianapolis. It is this kind of exaggeration based upon complete ignorance of the truth which breeds and keeps alive race hatred.

To this M. Sawyer replies:

I never fail to read and enjoy "Giving Woman Her Say", but this morning reading one particular paragraph in this article, the thought is brought out that the Negroes at their conventions are too often complaining of the hardships imposed upon them. I wonder if it has been given a thought that if we stood by passively whether we would have the few things we are allowed in this beautiful city?

She called attention to Capitol and Senate avenues and the northwestern part of the city; I wonder if she has kept up with the bombing of the homes in this part of the city, the constant fight that has to go on, the law suits that have been brought to bear to enable us to have beautiful homes?

I do not agitate neither do I feel that every little discrimination should be aired but I do say, that if it were not for these conventions, where it is possible to make known the embarrassing things we have to stand, that we would not be able to have beautiful homes, schools, parks, etc., that our no mean city affords us.

A white lady adds:

Unlike M. Sawyer, I do not read "Giving Woman Her Say", since the writer's attitude seldom appeals to me and so I missed her remarks to the effect that colored people in their conventions were too much given to complaining of the hardships imposed on them.

I wish those of us who feel that way could suddenly assume the appearance and automatically, of course, the handicaps of a colored person for, say, one week. I imagine one would acquire some little education in that length of time. I believe that we of the white race owe more than we know to the fact that Negroes as a race are long suffering and patient and by nature courteous.

GERTRUDE DEMUNBRUN.

NEGRO BANKS

That the first depositor in the first savings bank in the United States was a Negro is one of the interesting facts brought out in an article in the "Savings Bank Journal", of September, 1927, just published in New York City. Curtis Roberts, who was a servant in the home of Condy Raguet, who was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, is the man whose first silver dollar started that society on the road to deposits of more than $200,000,000.

Other interesting bits of history connected with the banking business among Negroes in America, beginning with the establishment in 1865 of the Freedmen's Savings Bank and Trust Company down to the latest attempt to organize a National Bank in Harlem, are interestingly related in an article on page fifty-six of the "Savings Bank Journal", written by Harry H. Pace, President of the Northeastern Life Insurance Company.

The article was written at the request of Mr. Frederick O. Shubert, Editor of this magazine, who read Mr. Pace's article on banking in the January CRISIS. In acknowledging receipt of the finished article, Mr. Shubert wrote: "It is the most interesting article on this subject that I have ever read".

Mr. Pace closes with a plea to the powers that be in the banking world for a larger opportunity for bank training for young Negroes who are coming out of the universities and colleges of the country and who desire to enter the banking business.

The closing paragraph of the article which has caused wide comment in banking circles is as follows:

"There is a question involved which the banking business of the country would do well to ponder. If the banking business is to be kept as it should be, a safe business managed by men who understand what they are doing, and whose lives are above reproach, the opportunity to learn the business ought to be given to those who enter it. Despite all regulations and laws, some Negroes somewhere are going to enter the banking business and they are going to enter it in greater numbers in many communities; whether they have experience or whether they go into it as some have done without knowledge of what it means. Young men who are coming out of universities and colleges ought

to be given a chance to study the banking business and to take back to their own people the true meaning of thrift and saving, the backbone of the finance of a nation."

A CONGRESS OF MISSIONS

A FIFTH CONGRESS on missions has been held at Louvain, Belgium.

The "Cinquième Semaine de Missiologie de Louvain" (August 10th to 14th) was even more impressive, according to the testimony of the 400 congressists than the preceding ones.

Missiologists of the first order, such as Fr. Charles, Dr. Schmidlin and Dr. Aufhauser, professors respectively of Louvain, Munster and Munchen, and Munchen, and missionaries of recognized experience such as Mgr. Robichez, bishop of Trincomaly, the V. R. Fr. Rutten, sup. gen. of Scheut, the V. R. Fr. Guilcher, sup. gen. of the Missions africaines de Lyon, showed in a series of some 20 reports the necessity of forming an elite in every domain of missionary endeavor. In other words they gave an exposé of what has been already accomplished as well as what they hope to do for the native clergy, for the founding of Catholic universities in missionary countries, for the promoting of pious associations and social works among the Christians who depend on the Propaganda.

Interesting discussions followed these reports and the exchange of views were all the more interesting from the fact that those taking part belonged to 22 different nations, represented 36 missionary congregations and came from every part of the world: China, India, Ceylon, Madagascar, Rhodesia, Polynesia, etc.

These exhanges of views led the missionaries to treat upon all the great colonial questions: the color-bar, the respect of native customs, the development of nationalism in missionary fields, etc. If at times, in the heat of discussion, principles somewhat rigid were enunciated by the theorists they were soon enlightened by those who had practical experience upon the subjects in question.

The point that was particularly stressed in these friendly debates, was that the Negro of Africa is capable of every possible development. According to missionaries who have worked long years among them, they show the greatest possibilities of religious, intellectual moral, esthetical and social development, and are in no way radically inferior to the peoples of other races. The conclusion of the discussion upon the Negro question was to confirm the idea that the black race can legitimately attain to the highest destinies. But it is necessary for us missionaries to show him the way, to educate him, to go to school as it were, to him, to study him thoroughly, his language and his culture.

The English *Review of Missions* has a naive article on "Church and State in Uganda".

The question of the relations between Church and State in Uganda is complicated by the different senses in which each of these words may be used. The Church, that is organized Christianity, is represented at one time by the Mission, at another by the local or native Church. The State, that is constituted authority, is embodied at one time in the native Government, at another in the British Administration. It is not always possible, even in thought, to disentangle the two. Mission and native Church go hand in hand, native and European Governments are bound up together.

The question is further complicated by the fact that two widely different types of mission exist side by side: the Anglican, represented by the Church Missionary Society, and (in the West Nile district) by the Church of England section of the Africa Inland Mission, and the Roman, represented by the White Fathers (French) and the Mill Hill Mission (English), and in the far north by the Italian Mission.

The native Government to-day is not one but many, and of many varying types, ranging from a monarchy, as developed in Buganda, to a primitive patriarchal government. Broadly speaking the districts west of the Nile are organized on a monarchical, those on the east on a patriarchal basis. Busgoga is an example of a country which has emerged from the one, without having developed into the other.

Over the whole varied system of native government — patriarchal, tribal, monarchical—has been superimposed the framework of British administration. The Protectorate is divided into five provinces, and these again into districts. Whatever the previously existing stage of development the same general principles of administration are followed. The country is divided into counties or *sazas,* each under its own county or saza chief, and these counties into sub-districts. Each chief presides over his own county or district court, and through these chiefs and their courts the British Government, by what is called indirect rule, administers the country.

MISCELLANEOUS

"I WISH I could share your illusion that Christ, or Christianity at any stage of its history, was pacifist. For the voice that said, 'All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword', also said: 'Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword.' And we know now that the angels at his birth never sang (as formerly mistranslated) 'on earth peace, good will to men', but the un-pacifist song, 'on earth peace to men of good will' (as the Catholic version has always run) or 'peace on earth for men whom he favors" (as the great Protestant scholar Moffat translates it)—for the men not of good will, for the men whom he did not favor, he came with a sword! Alas, like all characters in history, his is too complicated to sum up in a single modern word like pacifist, even though he loved his enemies and turned his other cheek—some times!"

We are beginning to manufacture a little "Americana" ourselves. We clip this from the Asheville, N. C. *Enterprise.*

Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Hubbard to Make Trip Around World

Mr. and Mrs. Z. B. Hubbard left the city, Tuesday, May 3rd, for Ringgold, Ga. They will probably spend a week or ten days with relatives and friends. From there to Chattanooga and other unknown parts of the world. They both are among Asheville's most favorite citizens and will be greatly missed. However, we wish for them a pleasant trip.

Slowly but surely the "Millstones" of the Universe are grinding out the "Colour problem".

It is a burden of vast responsibility to be shouldered by the minority white races, against the prodigous masses of coloured nations.

To ensure success it is necessary to establish and maintain good-will, confidence, justice, fair play, recognition and extension of equal rights to coloured folk, in the great fight for progress of civilization and betterment of Mankind.

CAPT. PAT BOWLER of London

The *Cincinnati Inquirer* is not satisfied with one editorial on Dr. Du Bois' lecture. It comes back the following day and complains that

the colored editor of an alleged American newspaper on Sunday asked of a Cincinnati audience: "What rights have white people in China? Why are they there?" He already had anathematized their presence in Haiti, Santo Domingo and elsewhere.

What rights, indeed? The Moscow Government asks the same question. It asks also what rights have any people outside the ranks of Sovietism to be anywhere?

The world answers that the white nations have rights guaranteed to them by treaties regarded to be sacred and binding in the view of international comity since men and nations began to recognize the necessity and value of honorable agreements in their relationships. That these rights will be protected is not to be doubted. The answer to Editor Du Bois's question is to be found in the Government's orders to American army divisions and the presence of the greatest sea armada in the history of the Orient in Chinese waters. The white man has lost neither his self-respect nor his courage.

If the treaties forced on China by England, France and the rest of the white world are "sacred and binding", then up is down, black is white and wrong is right.

Postscript
by W. E. B. Du Bois

PEONAGE

WE have grave suspicions that the colored committee recently appointed by Mr. Hoover to investigate flood conditions and peonage in the Mississippi Valley will be sorely tempted to whitewash the whole situation, to pat Mr. Hoover loudly on the back, and to make no real effort to investigate the desperate and evil conditions of that section of our country. Slavery still exists in the Mississippi Valley and this Committee knows it. Will they dare say so? The 13th Amendment is not enforced, much less the 14th and 15th. This Committee has the chance of a generation to make a thorough investigation and tell the truth or to stand up and let it be known that they are not permitted to make an investigation. The one fatal thing for them to do, and the thing for which the American Negro will never forgive them, is spineless surrender to the Administration and flattery for the guilty Red Cross.

P. S.: This was written in August. Friends said: "Don't prejudge. Wait. Give them a chance." We have waited. Next month we shall have more to say.

PREJUDICE

WE have received from Mrs. Helen D. Pecu of Vashon Islands, Washington, the following letter:

"I have hesitated many months in writing you but each time I read your editorials the impulse comes to protest, not because I am white, but for the sake of those whose skin pigment only has set them apart in an unjust world—a world of unreasoning prejudice—that men like you have built up—for you are as violently prejudiced against all whites as the most intolerant white man is against you. It is deplorable that so excellent a magazine as THE CRISIS should have at its head a man who sneers at all forms of government—save the Soviet government in Russia—who can but intimidate the budding courage and genius of his people by his own big stick of prejudice. In strong contrast, how fine is the character of Allison Davis, whose article 'On Misgivings' appears in the August CRISIS. What influence could he not wield between the two races! What respect would *his* cause not command. When we who regard the colored race with the same respect we feel for our own are assailed and derided because we are white, we begin to wonder if there might not have been in some age past a basic reason for this separation of the races, that reason now continuing in the form of prejudice on both sides between minds incapable of growth.

"I do not refer to the publication of crimes or acts of injustice. They are facts that both races should gravely consider, but as any friend, white or colored, who has the interest of your race at heart, I ask you to withhold your private political and prejudiced rancor. It is improper material in your magazine and detracts from its constructive purpose."

There is no doubt but that colored people are prejudiced against white people, and that the Editor of THE CRISIS is one of the greatest of sinners in this respect. From long experience he has gotten into the habit of expecting certain actions, certain thoughts, certain treatment from the majority of white people. He is sometimes pleasantly disappointed. In most cases he is not. In most cases he gets just what he has been looking for, and it is quite possible that, in some of these instances, he gets it because he has been expecting it!

But in any case, the worse fruit of prejudice is retaliatory prejudice; because white Americans have reasons based on slavery, poverty and ignorance in the past and on thoughtlessness and lack of information in our own day, they have gotten into the habit of treating black folk in certain ways. Black folk have gradually adopted the reciprocal habit of hating white skins, of being suspicious of every white action, and particularly of talking and acting as though even those white people who are not prejudiced, or who earnestly desire not to be, belonged to the unfortunate majority.

What Mrs. Pecu and others must learn is that this is the natural fruit of race prejudice. Just as no ordinary white man born and bred in the South can be expected to treat Negroes decently, in the same way, no Negro born in America can be expected to be sweet-tempered, charitable and broadminded toward white people.

The Editor of a magazine like THE CRISIS should nevertheless try to achieve such an attitude. He does try. If he fails, do not lay the fault entirely at his door. Lay it to the last lynching, or to the last time he was insulted in the theater, or to the last time he went hungry because all available hotels and restaurants were closed against him. It is all a mess, he admits and that is precisely what THE CRISIS has been trying to say for many years.

SMITH

WE are filled with delight at the prospect that Governor Smith will be nominated by the Democrats. The South does not want Smith because he is a Catholic; because he is a "Wet"; and because he is not "an aristocrat"! But if he is nominated, they have got to take him. No matter what they say, they would not dare

to vote against him. If they did, their vote would break up the Solid South and usher in real democracy in the United States and that is the last thing that the South dares face. The dilemma of the white South in 1928 is as delicious as the dilemma of the black North when it was asked to choose between Calvin Coolidge and John Davis.

KRIGWA

THREE hundred and seventy-five entries were made in the Krigwa prize contest for Negro literature and art, carried on by THE CRISIS during the year 1927. The entries are of a higher order of merit than in any previous contest. The editor has undertaken to read every single manuscript personally and instead of the drudgery he anticipated, the work has been a joy and inspiration. He has marked all the manuscripts on a scale as follows:

A—Excellent. Only these are considered for prizes.

B+—Good and worth publication.

B—Good.

C—Fair.

D—Poor, but with some points to commend.

E—Impossible.

After the editor has personally chosen the A manuscripts (and he has already chosen most of them), he will call in expert outside aid to confirm or criticize his decisions.

Between October 15 and November 15 checks will be mailed to prize winners and in the Christmas number the names and pictures will be printed.

SOCIAL EQUALS

THIS is a typical Negro American story which my friend told me the other night. He is a law examiner in one of the departments in Washington. Recently, together with three other professional men, he made a trip to the biennial meeting of a colored fraternity in Detroit. They took the "Red Arrow" all Pullman train out of Washington. As they were talking in the smoking room, a porter came in.

"A doctor, a doctor," he cried. "There is a lady dying in my car! Is there a doctor in here?"

My friend pointed to Dr. Dumas of Washington, one of his companions. Dr. Dumas is tall and handsome, with a smooth, dark-brown face. He is a skilled physician and surgeon. He rose immediately, got his medicine case and went into the next Pullman. An elderly Southern white woman had eaten too much and had a dangerous attack of acute indigestion. A hypodermic relieved her and Dr. Dumas came back to his companions. The next morning, he sauntered back to the car and found the woman quite recovered. She thanked him; then she reached down in her valise, took out a ten dollar bill. Dr. Dumas bowed courteously.

"O, no, Madam," he said. "This is my vacation and yours was an emergency case. I cannot think of taking a fee."

The woman insisted and got quite excited about it. But Dr. Dumas firmly refused and went back to his car. After a while a young white man came in. He said: "I am the son of Senator ———, of ———. I want to thank you very much for refusing to take that fee. The old woman in there is raising a great deal of excitement and is very angry. Of course you know what the trouble is. She thinks your refusal of a fee makes you assume to be her social equal and she is angry at any such assumption on your part. I am glad you did it. Some of the older generation of us Southerners are just plain fools. We younger people cannot, of course, get rid of all our prejudice, but we are certainly going to get rid of some." He bowed and went out.

GEORGIA

THE fight between heaven and hell goes on in Georgia. The last legislature passed an interracial marriage law which is going to inquire into the racial antecedents of Georgia citizens so carefully that, as a dispatch from Atlanta says, "it will cause Georgians in large numbers to go outside the state to marry". Negroes have only to state the fact in order to get marriage certificates, but Georgia whites have got to prove they are white and apparently, in a large number of cases, they cannot. In contrast to this foolishness comes the news that for the first time the legislature of Georgia has appropriated a decent sum for Negro higher education. For a long time the Georgia State Industrial College at Savannah received from the state only $10,000 a year, an amount which the state received from the United States and could not legally sequester. This year the school received an appropriation of $115,332, an increase of 476 per cent over any appropriation in the past. State and federal funds will now give the college an annual income of over $80,000. The General Education Board will add over $50,000 for buildings.

LIBERIA

THERE has been much underground discussion of Liberia in the colored world during the last few years, and some harsh judgments have been pronounced. There has been the case of the arrest of Bishop Brooks; the burning of John Hall, a naturalized Liberian, born in America; the difficulties of Major Staten in trying to protect one of his sergeants. Finally, there has been comment on the Firestone concession; and the re-election of President King for a third term.

On the other hand, there has been much reassuring news: the payment by Liberia of its small debt to the United States; the reception of President and Mrs. King in France and England; radio communication with the United States; and the notable increase in Liberian trade and revenue. Liberian exports have more than doubled since 1921; she has made satisfactory payments on her national debt; and she has arranged for the great Firestone rubber concession. Already Liberian rubber is being exported in considerable quantities.

What now is a fair conclusion to make concerning Liberia's status? First of all we must remember that Liberia is an independent country with its own law and courts. The place to right wrongs suffered in Liberia are the courts of Liberia. Bishop Brooks had been wronged by S. J. Taylor, whom he had made President of Monrovia College. Taylor had seized goods contributed by Americans to the college and had sought to make Bishop Brooks pay unfair debts. He even went so far as to have Bishop Brooks arrested. Bishop Brooks did exactly the thing he should have done. He fought the case through the courts, even suffering temporary imprisonment as a protest and finally won complete vindication and redress.

Hall was a murderer. He had strong provocation, and he was not furnished proper protection: but after all he had killed several persons; the attempt to arrest him which led to the burning of the building and of the man himself had to be made sometime and somehow. Bad judgment, not bad faith was the real fault.

Again, Liberia must admit capital. It is impossible for any land today to remain outside of the circle of modern industry and commerce. Brute force drags all in. In admitting capital Liberia had to make the best terms possible and this she certainly did in the case of Firestone. So far as legal contract goes, Liberia received the strongest protection and assurances. Naturally, predatory wealth in foreign investment is not to be trusted; but Liberia had no alternative; it was either English or French annexation, or American capital with the promise of continued independence.

Finally, President King is undoubtedly on the right track. He is keeping in close touch with the modern world. He is giving England, France and Amer- (*Turn to page* 322)

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(*From page* 295)

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IT may be well here to differentiate between a finance company and a bank. The rules governing the operation of a bank are laid down by the State or National Governments, or both. The use of its capital is definitely regulated by the state in which it operates and its loans must be made according to strict laws; no industrial loans are permitted. A finance company, on the other hand, while operated under the general supervision of the state, is, nevertheless, permitted to make loans as its stockholders may direct. Personal and Industrial loans in small amounts of $15, $20 and up, payable in weekly or monthly installments, may be made. The general purpose of these small loans is to help the working man to lump all of his debts and to repay the one debt in small weekly or monthly installments.

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One Boy's Story

(*From page 299*)

SHE stopped and hugged my head —like I wish she wouldn't sometimes and then went out.

I stayed still until she got out of the yard. Then I ran and got my rifle and sling-shot and followed her.

I crept behind her in the bushes beside the road. I cut across the fields and came out behind the willow patch the way I always do when I am tracking Indians and wild animals.

By and by she came out in the clearing that is behind Dr. Somerset's. They call it Somerset's Grove and it's named for his folks who used to live there—just as the town was.

She sat down so I lay down in the bushes. A sharp rock was sticking in my knee but I was afraid to move for fear she'd hear me and send me home.

By and by I heard someone walking on the grass and I saw Dr. Swyburne coming up. He started talking before he got to her. "Louise," he said. "Louise! I am not going to give anything up to a nigger."

"Not even a nigger woman whom you took from a nigger?" She lifted her mouth in the senna and manna way.

"DON'T say that!" he said. "Don't say that! I wanted a son. I couldn't have taken a woman in my own world—that would have ruined my practice. Elaine couldn't have a child!"

"Yes," Ma said. "It would have ruined you and your profession. What did it do for me? What did it do for Donald?"

"I have told you I will give him the best the world can offer. He is a Swyburne!"

"He is *my* child," Ma hollered. "It isn't his fault he is yours!"

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"But I give him everything a father could give his son!"

"He has no name!" Ma said.

"I have too!" I hollered inside of me. "Donald Gage!"

"He has no name," Ma said again, "and neither have I!" And she began to cry.

"He has blood!" said Dr. Swyburne.

"But how did he get it? Oh, I'm through. Stay away from my house and I'll marry one of my own men so Donald can be somebody."

"A nigger's son?"

"Don't say that again," Ma hollered and jumped up.

"Do you think I'll give up a woman of mine to a nigger?"

Ma hollered again and hit him right in his face.

He grabbed her wrists and turned the right one, I guess because she fell away from him on that side.

I couldn't stand any more. I snatched out my sling-shot and pulled the stone up that was sticking in my knee.

I started to shoot. Then I remembered what David said first, so I shut my eyes and said it: "Do thou, Jehovah (which is God today), lend strength to my arm".

WHEN I opened my eyes Ma had broken away and was running toward the road. Dr. Swyburne was standing still by the tree looking after her like he was going to catch her. His face was turned sideways to me. I looked at his head where his hair was brushed back from the side of his face.

I took aim and let the stone go. I heard him say: "Oh, my God!" I saw blood on his face and I saw him stagger and fall against the tree.

Then I ran too.

When I got home Ma was sitting in her chair with her hat thrown on the floor beside her and her head was lying back.

I walked up to her: "Ma," I said real loud.

She reached out and grabbed me and hugged my head down to her neck like she always does.

The big breast-pin scratched my mouth. I opened my mouth to speak and something hot and sharp ran into my tongue.

"Ma! Ma!" I tried to holler. "The pin is sticking in my tongue!"

* * *

I DON'T know what I said though. When I tried to talk again, Ma and Dr. Somerset were looking down at me and I was lying in bed. I tried to say something but I could not say anything. My mouth felt like it was

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full of hot bread and I could not talk around it.

Dr. Somerset poured something in my mouth and it felt like it was on fire.

"They found Shev Swyburne in my thistle grove this afternoon," he said to Ma.

Ma looked up quick. *"Found* him! What do you mean?"

"I mean he was lying on the ground —either fell or was struck and fell. He was dead from a blow on the temple."

I tried to holler but my tongue was too thick.

Ma took hold of each side of her face and held to it, then she just stared at Dr. Somerset. He put a lot of things back in his bag.

Then he sat up and looked at Ma. "Louise," he said, "why is all that thistle down on your skirt?"

Ma looked down. So did I. There was thistle down all over the hem of her dress.

"You don't think I killed him, do you?" she cried, "you don't think I did it?" Then she cried something awful.

I tried to get up but I was too dizzy. I crawled across the bed on my stomach and reached out to the chair that had my pants on it. It was hard to do—but I dragged my sling shot out of my pocket, crawled back across the bed and laid it in Dr. Somerset's knees. He looked at me for a minute.

"Are you trying to tell me that you did it, son?" he asked me.

I said yes with my head.

"My God! My God!! His own child!!!"

Dr. Somerset said to Ma: "God isn't dead yet."

THEN he patted her on the arm and told her not to tell anybody nothing and they sat down and picked all the thistle down out of the skirt. He took the sling-shot and broke it all up and put it all in a paper and carried it downstairs and put it in the stove.

I tried to talk. I wanted to tell him to leave it so I could show my grandchildren what I had used to free Ma like the men do in the books.

I couldn't talk though. My tongue was too thick for my mouth. The next day it burnt worse and things began to float around my eyes and head like pieces of wood in the water.

Sometimes I could see clearly though and once I saw Dr. Somerset talking to another man. Dr. Somerset was saying: "We'll have to operate to save his life. His tongue is poisoned. I am afraid it will take his speech from him."

Ma hollered then: "Thank God!

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He will not talk! Never! He can't talk! Thank God! Oh God! I thank Thee!" And then she cried like she always does and that time it sounded like she was laughing too.

The other man looked funny and said: "Some of them have no natural feeling of parent for child!"

Dr. Somerset looked at him and said: "You may be fine as a doctor but otherwise you are an awful fool."

Then he told the other man to go out and he began talking to Ma.

"I understand! I understand," he said. "I know all about it. He took you away from somebody and some of these days he might have taken Donald from you. He took Elaine from me once and I told him then God would strip him for it. Now it is all over. Never tell anyone and I will not. The boy knows how to read and write and will be able to live."

* * *

SO I got a black stump in my mouth
It's shaped like a forked whip.

Some days I pretend I am Orestes with the Furies's whips in my mouth for killing a man.

Some days I pretend I am Oedipus and that I cut it out for killing my own father.

That's what makes me sick all over sometimes.

I killed my own father. But I didn't know it was my father. I was freeing Ma.

Still—I shall never write that on my paper to Ma and Dr. Somerset the way I have to talk to them and tell them when things hurt me.

My father said I was a Swyburne and that was why I liked people to be brave and courageous.

Ma says I am a Gage and that is why I am brave and courageous.

But I am both, so I am a whole lot brave, a whole lot courageous. And I am bearing my Furies and my clipped tongue like a Swyburne and a Gage —'cause I am both of them.

The Little Page

(*From page* 300) Mother Goose would not have enjoyed my changing her famous rhyme,

"One misty moisty morning
When cloudy was the weather,
I chanced to meet an old man
Clothed all in leather."

But this foggy morning I went through the dews and found little fat brown spiders watching the daintiest of webs. These were stretched to tree branches or fastened to sprigs of dried bushes. The dew was upon them in drops as tiny as needle heads, sprinkled all along the delicate strands like strung pearls and crystals, festoons for the fairies.

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I COUNTED twenty-five little cords spraying from the center of a web in the pear tree. How carefully the airy bridges or traps were arranged to fit into crevices and hold fast. The spider herself was hiding and looked like the brown notches on the tree, a shabby owner, that rusty creature, of all those diamonds and pearls on twenty-five strings! She reminded me of the little old fashioned tea pots of brown earthware that grandmothers kept on their ranges.

The spiders are a funny folk. People would use them as silk makers, but they won't spin much when confined, though their silk, we are told, is quite as good as the best of silk worm products. They moreover have a way of lunching upon one another when placed together. Too bad to have to call them cannibals, yet we know that many a lady spider has devoured the suitor who has come to woo her. He would timidly tap on her web, be admitted to her cell, and then? Eaten!

The Browsing Reader

(*From page* 308) sands of the desert, in the green valley of the Nile and in the lithe black bodies of the natives.

For a couple of centuries or so now, we have heard rumors of our superiority in the native musical ability. "Negroes are natural born musicians!" We have heard it and we have liked it. Just when we are quite convinced that we are all embryonic songbirds or pianists or violinists, Guy B. Johnson comes along and shatters our fondest dream. *The Southern Workman* for October carries an interesting article on "The Negro and Musical Talent". Through a series of scientific tests Mr. Johnson finds that there are "no significant differences in the basic sensory musical capacities between whites and Negroes". However, he finds that there is more individualistic talent among Negroes than whites. The white distribution shows a large proportion of average scores while the Negro distribution shows a great many very low scores as well as a great many exceptionally high ones.

According to an editorial by H. L. Mencken in the October *Mercury*, Negroes are dictating to white America the latest fads in clothes, the odor of bootleg whiskey, how and when to raise the voice, just at what angle to throw the arms when dancing the Charleston and the thing to eat. We have gone so far even as to marry into white "aristocracy". Certainly we should be satisfied! But strangely enough, we aren't!

Century for October carries "The Long Furrow" by Lyle Saxon. It is the story of a black man whose life consists of plowing and dreaming; and of a white man who is slowly dying from tuberculosis. The latter realizes his dependence on the Negro too late to help him realize his dreams. The story might have been artistic and virile were it not besmeared with too much sentimentality.

Wallace Thurman writes on "Nephews of Uncle Remus" in the *Independent* for September 24. To our way of thinking this is by far the best article Mr. Thurman has done. He criticizes the work of five of the best known "New Negroes" and in most cases "discovers the jewel and casts away the stone". To be sure, Mr. Thurman is a little harsh in his criticisms, but we need just such a balance to offset the saccharine effusions of some of our panegyrists.

"Should the Negro be Encouraged to Cultural Equality?" is the text of a debate conducted by the *Forum* for October with Alain Locke representing the affirmative and Lothrop Stoddard the negative. Mr. Locke clouds the issue we think, by not making clear the difference between the terms "social equality" and "cultural recognition". He should have made clear to the reader that although black John Jones is recognized in the closest literary circles as the author of the most artistic book of the year and is, therefore, "one of the boys", the waitress down at Childs' doesn't know or care whether or not he is equally dusky Bob Smith, the corner bootblack. Mr. Stoddard, probably the best known of the anti-Negro propagandists, answers in no unequivocal terms that white America is and always will remain white. But say we, suppose we jog along under the same conditions and at the same steady rate for fifty or a hundred years more, is it safe to guess that Mr. Stoddard will have even more definite proof than he now has, that America for some reason or other has taken on a duskier hue?

MARVEL JACKSON.

Postscript

(*From page* 312) ica not the slightest valid excuse for interfering with Liberia. There may be, there probably are, other men in Liberia who could follow out this program, but it certainly seems to be wise to keep President King in his present job until his program is more nearly finished.

Liberia has difficult internal problems: problems of law and order, of the treatment of natives, of work and wages, of the protection of foreigners; but one thing is certain: Liberia is stronger today in its independence than it has been for a half century. And that is something for which all Negroes should be proud.

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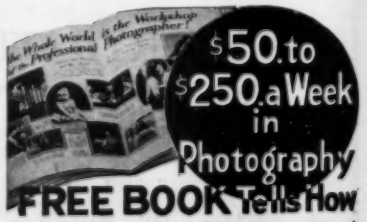

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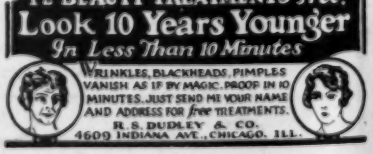

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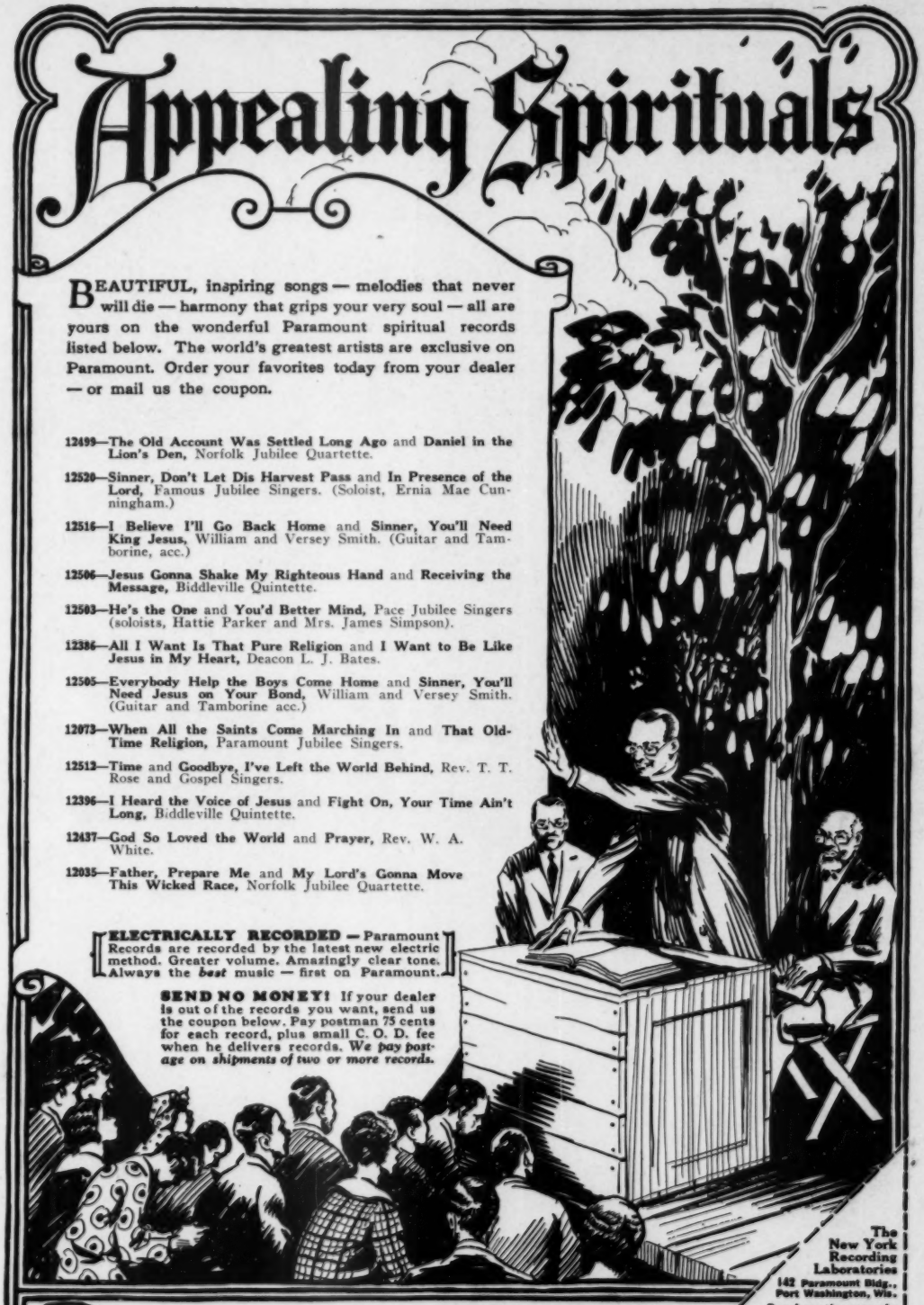

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